



**LESBIAN MOTHERS:
LEGAL REALITIES**

by del martin & phyllis lyon - pg. 11

MIDWESTERN G.A.U. MEETING

by Brian Grove

Ann Arbor, Michigan - The Midwestern Region of the Gay Academic Union held its first regional conference from March 7th to 9th at the Backham School of Graduate Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Students, faculty, and delegates from eight states in the midwestern region were present for the conference. Keynote speakers on Friday evening were Elaine Noble (elected to the Massachusetts State House of Representatives as an open lesbian in 1974) and Allen Spear (who was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 1972, and has been a gay activist for the past two years). In her keynote address Representative Noble emphasized present tensions between the lesbian and male flanks of the gay liberation movement, and the necessity for gay males to work actively for feminist liberation and for an understanding of the lesbian consciousness. Senator Spear argued on behalf of the need for present gay organizations to work at the consolidation of the gains which have been made by operating and lobbying within the present political structures of American society. The keynote addresses were attended by almost three hundred persons, and were followed by a lively discussion.

The delegates and participants spent all of Saturday at a variety of workshops which extended throughout the day. Workshop topics were Legal aspects of employment for the homosexual (Rhonda Rivera), a panel on using the media, biological determinism and the etiology of homosexuality (Steve Risch, Michael Christensen), counseling gays (Anne Farrah), dynamics of gay organizations (James Toy), building resources for educational outreach (Lee Rice, Waldemar Lopez), the gay bill of rights (Walter Sheppe), the gay rights struggle (Dan Tsang), sociology of bureaucracies (Elizabeth Davenport), a gay studies panel, and a session on confrontational theatre. A social gala and dance was held at the V.F.W. Center in Ann Arbor to



Larry Cramer, Representative Elaine Noble (Massachusetts), Linda Derum, Senator Allen Spear (Minnesota) - GPU NEWS photo

close the Saturday sessions.

Sunday morning offered a business meeting and closing brunch. Among a number of topics taken up was that of regional representation and the relation of the midwestern regional office to that of the national GAU headquarters in New York (which offered little assistance or communication in planning this regional conference). It was decided that each of the ten states in the midwestern GAU region would have two liaison persons, whose duty would be that of contacting campus groups within their state which might be interested in GAU affiliation, and of keeping the midwestern regional office at Ann Arbor informed of activities and news items within their state. Campus organizations within Wisconsin which are interested in GAU affiliation should contact GPU NEWS (P.O. Box 90530, Milwaukee, Wis. 53202), which will forward the information to the regional representatives and to the midwestern office of GAU.

All in attendance at the conference were convinced that a solid beginning had been made toward integrating and communicating academic activities and problems throughout the midwestern United

States. The conference planners, Linda Derum and Larry Cramer (both at Ann Arbor) were congratulated for the success of this first conference. Editing of the proceedings is to begin shortly with a view toward eventual publication. Those interested in information or individual membership in the Gay Academic Union may write directly to: GAU Midwest, 325 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

IS N.Y. SODOMY LAW LEGAL?

Long Island, N.Y. - Judge Gioanna LaCarrubba of the District Court of Suffolk County has declared the New York statute prohibiting sodomy unconstitutional. The law defines consensual sodomy as "deviate sexual intercourse... between persons not married to each other." Judge LaCarrubba ruled the statute unfairly discriminates against single adults. The assistant district attorney who argued the case against criminal lawyer Alan Azzara plans to appeal the decision. Azzara said he welcomes the challenge as the case will be a binding precedent only if affirmed on a higher level.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY SLAMS GAYS

Milwaukee - Can a society protect privacy when it outlaws homosexuality and other private sexual behavior? E. Michael McCann, District Attorney for Milwaukee County, says yes.

McCann argued against legalizing homosexuality when he spoke on March 11 before Marquette University philosophy students. His speech, "Sexuality and the Law," was one of a series of programs on human sexuality presented by Wisconsin Alpha Chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, a philosophy honor society. The series ends April 26 with a panel on sexuality.

"Should we as a society say we opt for a heterosexual life?" McCann asked. "I think we can, and I think we should in this area.

"I think that a society has a right to opt for certain things. We're opting against opium in this society," he said. Giving another example, he asked rhetorically, "Why do we opt for monogomy? Why not polygamy?"

SEX CHANGE MARRIAGE ANNULLED

Hackensack, N.J. - Louis J. Davenport decided to get an annulment when he found out that his bride of two weeks had once been a man.

Superior Court Judge Sherwin Lester ruled that the wife, Brenda A. Adams, 24, of North Bergen, N.J., had committed fraud. He granted the annulment to Davenport, 54, of Lodi, N.J., February 18.

Davenport told the judge that his marriage was consummated during a honeymoon in Puerto Rico after the April 19, 1974, wedding. He said he was told about the sex change by store employes when he went to look for his wife at a supermarket where she had worked.



—Journal Photo
McCann

McCann said he felt that laws outlawing homosexuality reflected "somewhat of a consensus in our society." He indicated he agreed with that consensus, saying, "I have no quarrel with the law (on homosexuality) as it presently stands."

On the other hand, he said, "I certainly think it's immoral to prosecute individuals for what they are." He suggested as an example a man who had been raised since birth as a female, called by a female name and dressed in female clothes.

What he was concerned about, he said, was the display of homosexuality in public places. "Some people are genuinely offended by going into a bathroom and having another person solicit them."

McCann said there should be "vigorous enforcement" when people are offended by homosexual displays in public. He dwelled on bathroom solicitations and, when asked about displays of homosexuality in gay bars, said he didn't think there was much enforcement by police against the bars in Milwaukee.

McCann said he believed strongly in privacy and that he didn't prosecute cases of homosexuality that occur privately. Asked if there wasn't a conflict in his advocacy of both privacy and laws

against homosexuality, McCann said that he thought present enforcement allowed privacy. "Police in this county don't break down bedroom doors to see what two men are doing in a bedroom." He didn't talk about lesbians in his speech.

McCann also came out against abortion and legalizing prostitution during his talk.

ENTERTAINER AWARDS

Milwaukee - The annual Gay Academy Awards presentation will be held this year on Sunday evening, April 6, at the Marquee Show Lounge of the Factory Bar. Nominees were performers who had appeared on stage during the past year as entertainers in gay establishments. On March 9 the nominees appeared in a performance of the routine for which each had been nominated. Votes were cast by their fellow performers and the audience, the ballots of the performers being given a 50% weight and those of the audience 50%. The votes were tabulated by Alyn Hess, chairperson of Gay Peoples Union, but the winners will be revealed on April 6.

California May Change Law

Sacramento, Ca. - The California State Assembly voted for the first time to pass legislation which will legalize homosexuality between consenting adults. The bill, presented by Assemblyperson Willie Brown Jr. (Dem-SF), passed by a vote of 45-26 after heated debate. The bill specifically states that penalties for acts of oral copulation and sodomy between consenting adults in private will be eliminated. Before the bill becomes law, it must be passed by the State Senate, which is considered more conservative.

GAY RIGHTS BILL IN CONGRESS

H.R. 166 - IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 14, 1975

Ms. Abzug (for herself, Mr. John L. Burton, Mr. Koch, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Nix) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To prohibit discrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual preference, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Civil Rights Amendments of 1975".

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

SEC. 2. (a) Section 201 (a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a) is amended by inserting after "religion," the words "affectional or sexual preference,".

(b) Section 202 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2000a-1) is amended by inserting after "religion," the words "affectional or sexual preference,".

PUBLIC FACILITIES

SEC. 3. Section 301 (a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000b (a)) is amended by inserting after "religion," the words "affectional or sexual preference,".

PUBLIC EDUCATION

SEC. 4. Sections 401 (b), 407 (a) (2), and 410 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-6 (a) (2), 2000c-9) are each amended by inserting after "sex," the words "affectional or sexual preference,".

FEDERALLY ASSISTED OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 5. Section 601 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) is amended by inserting after "color," the words "affectional or sexual preference,".

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 6. (a) Sections 703 (a), 703 (b), 703 (c), 703 (d), 703 (e), 703 (j), 704 (b), 706 (g), 717 (a) and 717 (c) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-2, -3, -5, -16) are amended by adding after the word "sex," each time it appears the words "affectional or sexual preference."

(b) Section 703 (h) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2000e-2) is amended by adding after the word "sex" the first two times it appears the words "affectional or sexual preference."

INTERVENTION AND PROCEDURE

SEC. 7. Section 902 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000h-2) is amended by inserting after the word "sex," the words "affectional or sexual preference."

HOUSING SALE, RENTAL, FINANCING, AND BROKERAGE SERVICES

SEC. 8. (a) Section 804 of the Act entitled "An Act to prescribe penalties for certain acts of violence or intimidation, and for other purposes," (42 U.S.C. 3604), is amended by inserting after the word "religion," each time it appears the words "affectional or sexual preference,".

(b) Section 805 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3605) is amended by inserting after the word "religion," the words "affectional or sexual preference,".

(c) Section 806 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3606) is amended by inserting after the word "religion," the words "affectional or sexual preference,".

PREVENTION OF INTIMIDATION

SEC. 9. Section 901 of the Act entitled "An Act to prescribe penalties for certain acts of violence or intimidation, and for other purposes," (42 U.S.C. 3631), is amended by inserting after the word "religion," each time it appears the words "affectional or sexual preference,".

EDUCATION PROGRAMS RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SEC. 10. Section 901 (a) of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-318) is amended by adding after the word "sex," the first time it appears the words "or affectional or sexual preference,".

DEFINITION

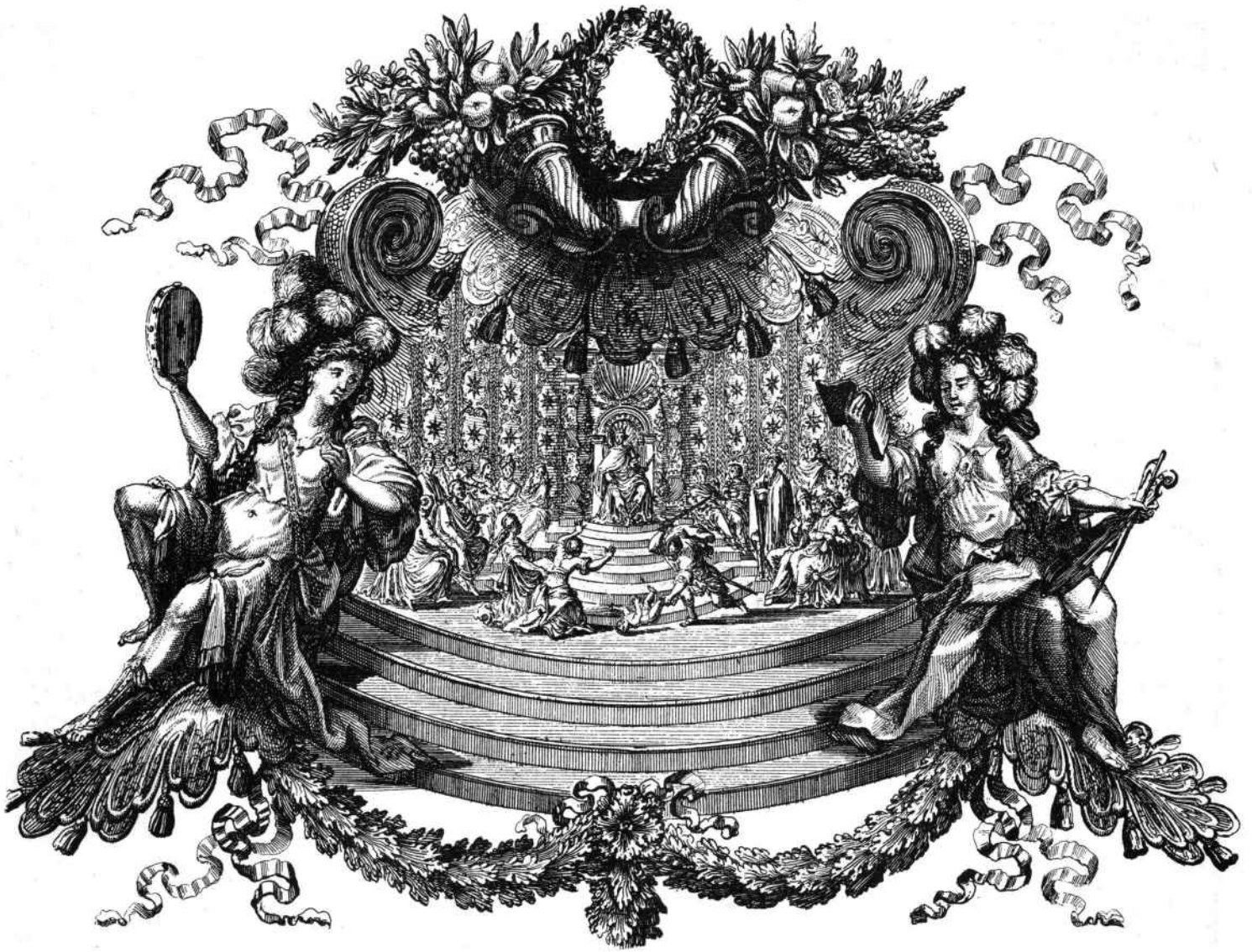
SEC. 11. As used in this Act, the term "affectional or sexual preference" means having or manifesting an emotional or physical attachment to another consenting person or persons of either gender, or having or manifesting a preference for such attachment.

Washington, D.C. - A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual preference has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Bella Abzug (NY), Ed Koch (NY), John Burton (Cal.), Pete McCloskey (Cal.) and Robert Nix (Pa.). The bill will amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act to protect gay people in the areas of employment, public accommodations, public education, and federally funded programs.

Already Ben Rosenthal (NY), Ron Dellums (Cal.), Michael Harrington (Mass.), Steven Solarz (NY), Fred Richmond (NY), Peter Stark (Cal.), Parren Mitchel (Md.), J.B. Bingham (NY), and Fauntroy (Wash. D.C.) have asked to have their names added to the bill.

GAY MARRIAGE VOIDED

Phoenix, Az. - Sam Burnett and Tony Secuya, married here in January (see GPU NEWS, March 1975) have agreed to sign an agreement declaring their marriage null and void. Willing to fight for their right to remain in legal wedlock, the only reason they're giving in is lack of funds to wage their battle in court. Their lawyer, Howard M. Klein, had no difficulty getting the charge of filing a false affidavit thrown out of court. However, Klein said he wouldn't be able to defend the men in the other suit against them filed by the clerk of court to declare the marriage void, "It'd take \$5,000 to \$8,000." "It's a tragedy, too, because the case has a really good chance of winning if we could afford to take it into U.S. District Court," he added. A compromise is being arranged—the men acknowledging in writing that their marriage is null and void, the Arizona authorities permitting them to file suit to get a license sometime in the future.



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EDITORIAL

The most important gay rights bill ever to come before the congress is now being considered by the House Committee on the Judiciary. Introduced in January by Rep. Bella Abzug of New York and supported by other representatives of both parties, it would, if enacted, provides gays with protection of their basic civil rights in the following areas: public accommodations; public facilities; public education; federally assisted opportunities; equal employment opportunities; intervention and procedure; house sale, rental, financing and brokerage services; prevention of intimidation; education programs receiving federal financial assistance. There is no question that this legislation, now called simply H.R. 166, would have enormous impact on the lives of gay people in this country. In fact, it would

MEMBER COSMOP

COMMITTEE OF SMALL MAGAZINE
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS
BOX 703 SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94101

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If you want counseling about a homosexual problem or would like to have a speaker on the subject for your group, contact us at the above address or telephone 271-5273.

Yours in Liberation,
THE PUBLICATION
COMMITTEE

amount to the most significant legal protection for gays in any country in the world!

The term "affectional or sexual preference" appears in both the Minneapolis and the St. Paul gay rights laws that passed in 1974. The phrase has won support from gay movement and feminist groups, who see it as a way or protecting the heart of our gayness—the choice to love whom we love, to be with whomever we choose, to say we're gay and to express affection as openly as heterosexuals do.

Congresspersons listen to their constituents in these post-Watergate times and anyone can make a meaningful contribution to the gay liberation movement by writing to their representative in support of this bill as reprinted in detail on page 4 of this issue. You need not compose a lengthy or learned epistle—a note, a simple and direct letter will do. This is not a partisan issue, but a matter of legally protecting the individual rights of citizens without regard to their "affectional or sexual preference." Everyone is urged to write now!

The names of your particular representatives can be obtained from Ready Reference at the Milwaukee Public Library (278-3011) and the address for all of them is the same: House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. Write and write again if necessary. Write the members of the Committee on the Judiciary. Write your congressperson. Write your mother. This bill will not pass without widespread and consistent support. Bills before individual cities, state legislatures and sundry municipalities are not insignificant, but they do pale before federal legislation. H.R. 166 will protect all of us from discrimination on any level, whether governmental or individual, whether in being hired or fired, whether in living or learning. We have rights and one of our most important rights is to be heard. So write already!

FEEDBACK

Dear GPU:

It is very refreshing to me as a gay person to read your magazine. I was introduced to it thru Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop in New York City. Tell Wayne Jefferson that I couldn't agree with him more on his review of *Different* in January-February 1975 issue.

Thank you.

With love and much appreciation,
Dayle Dunkin

GPU Phone Committee:

Thank you for suggesting a donation as a means of expressing the gratitude I feel to the GPU for the understanding help I've received from members of your group during this peculiarly unsettling period of my life. Unfortunately, the obvious fact that you need money to continue your work hadn't found its way into my presently self-preoccupied head. I'm enclosing a check for \$30 and wish it could be more.

I've dialed the GPU phone number at some very inconsiderate hours of the night, and each time there's been a very considerate, sympathetic person on the other end. It's a great help to be able to talk with someone who is patient and nonjudgmental at those times when your devils come bounding out of the corners. I think that had there been organizations like GPU around when I was a younger man perhaps this present time might not be so rocky for me.

At any rate, I'm glad you're out there, and I hope you flourish and multiply. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

A grateful caller

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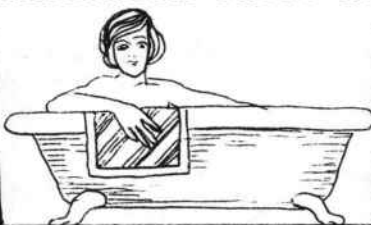
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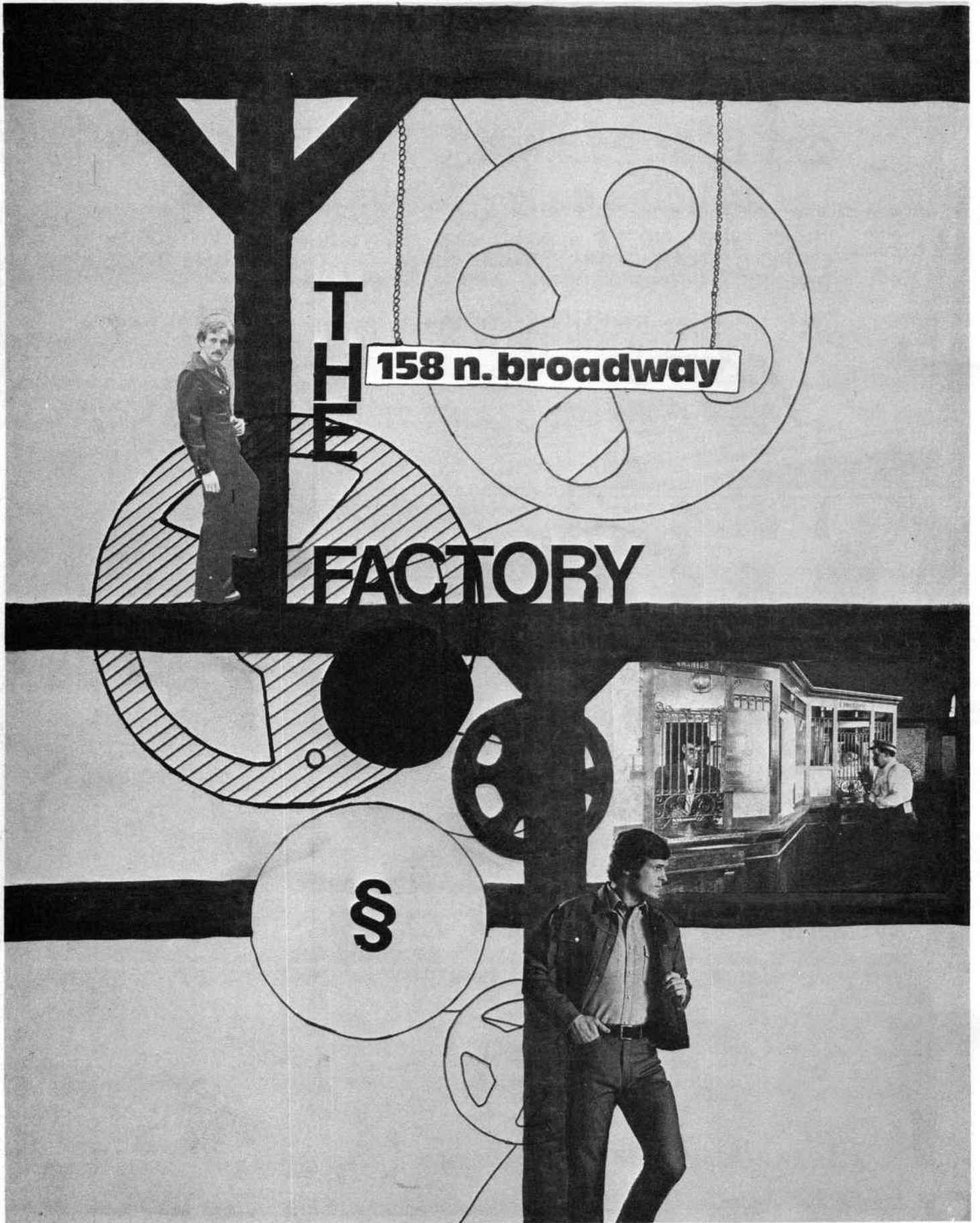
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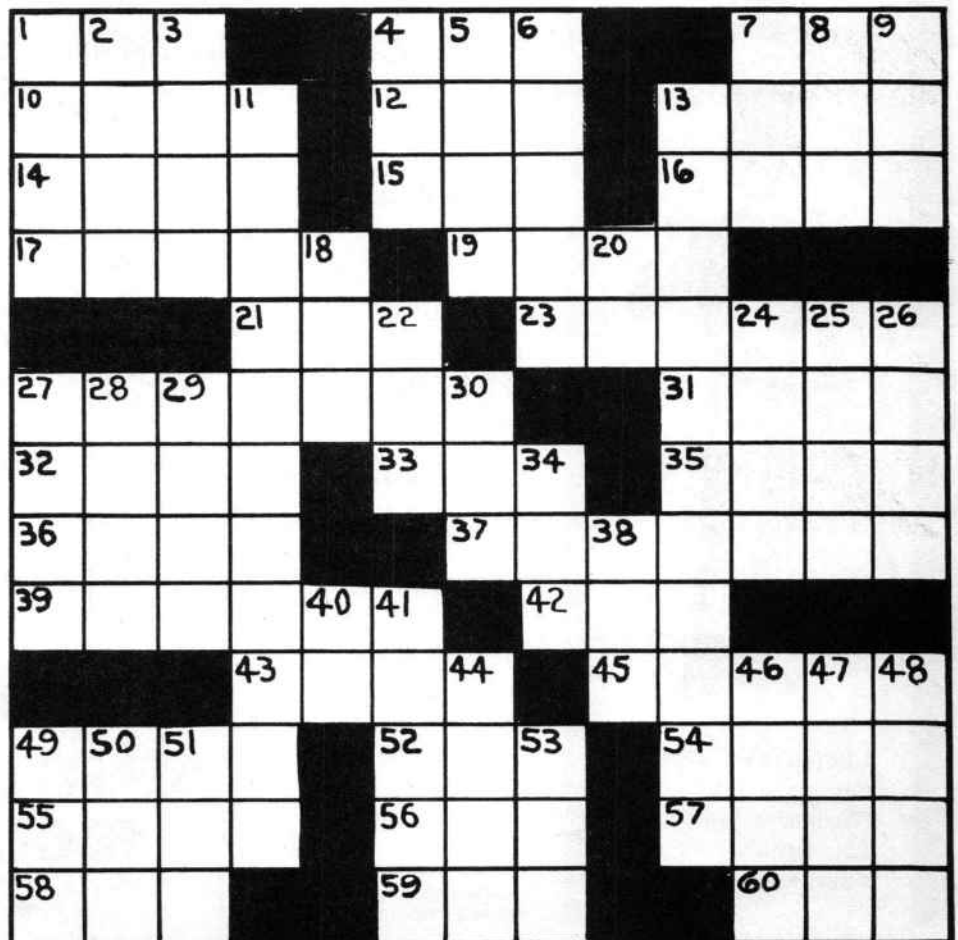
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

- 1) Public Buildings Administration: abbr.
- 4) California Uniform Club: abbr.
- 7) Weep
- 10) Damage
- 12) Egg
- 13) Heating device
- 14) Volcano
- 15) Gay and women's ---
- 16) --- woods
- 17) Fishermans ---
- 19) --- Bath on Turk Street
- 21) New Zealand parrot
- 23) Slip away
- 27) Get a sweeping view from here
- 31) Square and beer
- 33) --- Francisco
- 35) --- tower
- 36) Harvest
- 37) Around San Francisco
- 39) Main street of San Francisco
- 42) Hotel need
- 43) Marriage vows
- 45) Earth: Latin
- 49) China ---
- 52) Women's Army Corps: abbr.
- 54) Highway
- 55) Motorcycle Group: pl.
- 56) Taro root
- 57) Eight: prefix
- 58) Tool ---
- 59) Skid ---
- 60) Church ---

- 11) --- Hotel
- 13) Famous Y (now closed)
- 18) Banana: Polyn.
- 20) Underwriters Laboratory: abbr.
- 22) Male nickname: pl.
- 24) Needy
- 25) Silk: Fr.
- 26) Female appellation
- 27) Male nickname
- 28) Olive genus
- 29) Teddy ---
- 30) Place to do research
- 34) Seize
- 38) Nevertheless
- 40) Newspaper executive: abbr.
- 41) Coit---
- 44) ---masochist
- 46) Seal ---
- 47) Ratio
- 48) ---for a lay
- 49) Small flap
- 50) Shoulder: comb. form
- 51) None of your bees ---
- 53) --- palace

(Solution on page 29)



DOWN

- 1) Exclamation
- 2) Club ---
- 3) Buffalo: India
- 4) Colonel: abbr.
- 5) Grape-like
- 6) --- car
- 7) Male nickname
- 8) Any (dialect)
- 9) Gay ---



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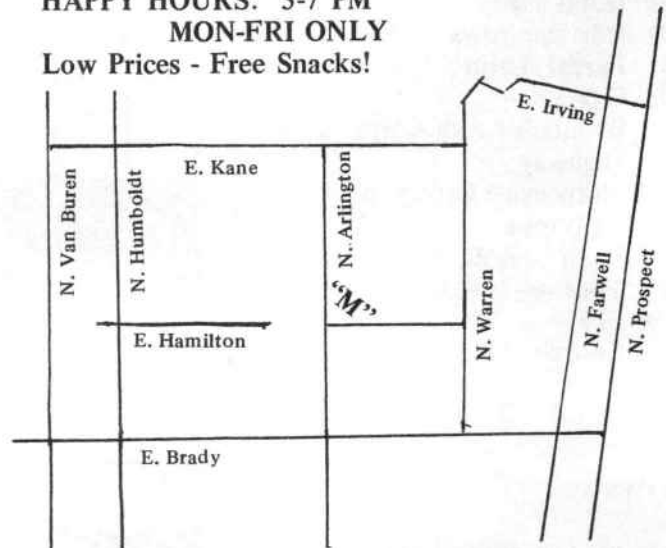
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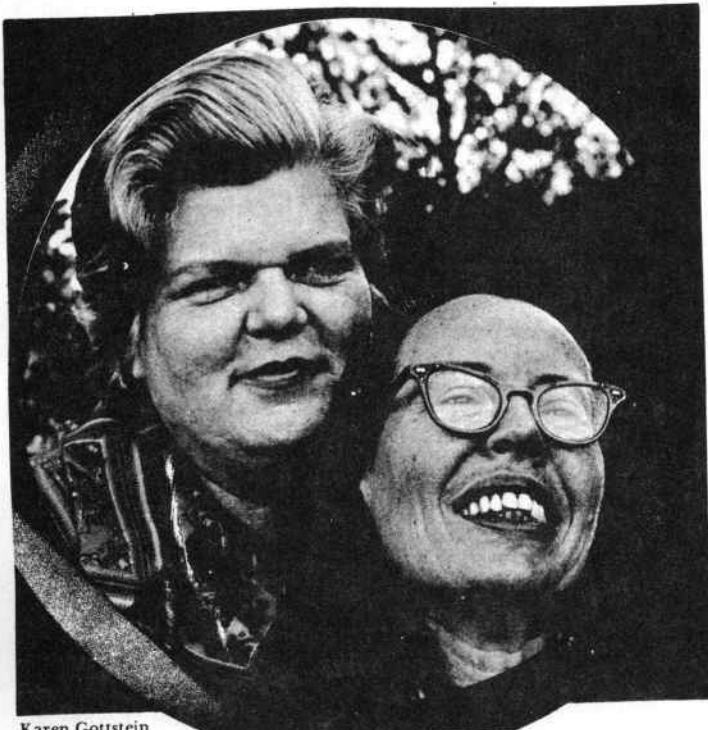
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LESBIAN MOTHERS: LEGAL REALITIES

by del martin & phyllis lyon

CO-AUTHORS OF

lesbian \ woman



Karen Gottstein

DEL MARTIN AND PHYLLIS LYON

The phrase "Lesbian mother" has until recently been regarded as a contradiction in terms. Since sexual relationships between two women are obviously non-procreative, it was automatically assumed in American society that there was no such thing as a Lesbian mother.

Researchers noted that the vast majority of women who identify as Lesbian have had some heterosexual experience (which they are usually quick to point out is pro-creative). Yet they failed to question their subjects about possible offspring. If they accidentally discovered that the Lesbian interviewed was also a mother, they attached no significance to that information and did not pursue this aspect of Lesbian lifestyles.

We can only conjecture that the reasons for this omission are: (1) motherhood was not a part of their preconceived thesis about Lesbians and so was disregarded; (2) they were so imbued with the "sterility myth" (that Lesbians are non-procreative and therefore lead a sterile life) they could not conceive of Lesbians as mothers; (3) they apparently believed their own professional propaganda (women may go through a "homosexual stage" during puberty or adolescence, but their Lesbian feelings will disappear when they meet the right man and marry) to the extent that they could not recognize and deal with facts to the contrary; and (4) their interest in Lesbians centered only in areas of causation or sexual behavior and they had no concern about those attributes which together make up the whole person and the Lesbian lifestyle.

Regretfully, as a consequence of this neglect and the inability of researchers to explore beyond the obvious or surface manifestations of Lesbianism, there is nothing in the professional literature about Lesbian mothers and their children that would be helpful to the attorney who is handling such a custody case. And those researchers who are now interested in conducting in-depth studies of Lesbian families are unable to get their projects funded. We are left then with a few magazine and newspaper articles and the educated guesses of some "expert" professional witnesses who argue either side of the case as to the "fitness" of a Lesbian as a parent.

There is no law which states that a mother who also happens to be a Lesbian is unfit per se. What may make her "unfit" is the judge's personal determination that a heterosexual environment is preferable and therefore in "the best interests of the child." What is at stake is the judge's frame of reference. Usually he is older, white, middle-

class and heterosexual. Usually he is conservative in his concepts of family, marriage and divorce and frowns upon "alternative lifestyles." Usually he is bound to traditional stereotypes of femininity and masculinity, and of wife and mother role models. No matter how strong the testimony, evidence and arguments offered in court in favor of the Lesbian mother as the custodial guardian of the children, it must be filtered through his personal bias and prejudice.

The courts seem to be concerned about whether or not the fact that the mother is a Lesbian will have an adverse effect on her child(ren). How will she and her partner behave in front of the children? Will the children see them in the "act"? Will the children have sexual identification problems? Will they be stigmatized, be embarrassed and have trouble relating to their peers? And most importantly, will the children of Lesbian mothers grow up to be gay?

In a recent decision in the Chaffin case (which went against the mother) Judge J. Fleming, of the Court of Appeal of the State of California, wrote: "Homosexuality is a factor which the trial court could consider. At bench, this factor is not merely fortuitous or casual, but rather it dominates and forms the basis for the household into which the children would be brought if custody were awarded to appellant. Appellant does not merely say she is homosexual. She also lives with the woman with whom she has engaged in homosexual conduct, and she intends to bring up her daughters in that environment. The trial court was not required to believe appellant's self-serving statements about the present nature of her homosexual relationship, nor was it required to disregard the potential psychological influence that appellant's homosexual relationship might have upon her daughters."

Many psychiatrists (among them Dr. Renuart Hartogs, associate director of the American Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis; Dr. Jean Munzer, associate psychiatrist at St. Luke's Hospital and research assistant at Columbia University; and Dr. Robert E. Gould, associate professor of Clinical Psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine and director of Adolescent Psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital) agree that if a child is raised with love, understanding and consideration, the sexual preference of the parent need not make any difference. Of primary importance is the parent-child relationship.

On this basis in 1972—for the first time to our knowledge—custody was awarded to admitted Lesbian mothers in contested court cases: Camille Mitchell in San Jose, California, and Sandra Schu-

ster and Madeleine Isaacson in Seattle, Washington. In both instances, however, the court added a proviso that the women could not live together. Cam was even restricted from seeing her lover unless the children were in school or visiting their father. This meant, too, that she would be in contempt of court if she hired a baby sitter in order to spend an evening with her lover outside the home. These women's qualifications as mothers had received the court's stamp of approval, and they were in essence directed to devote themselves to the single occupation of mothering. Apparently it was okay to be a Lesbian and mother—so long as you didn't practice Lesbianism.

Other courts began to take the same line. In a small town in Northern California, custody of a daughter was given to her paternal grandmother and the mother ordered to separate from her lover. If she demonstrated good faith, the judge said he might reconsider placing the child back with her. In rendering this decision he totally disregarded the testimony of the program chief of the county's Mental Health Division of the Department of Public Health who had examined both women and recommended them as a pair to raise the child. "My hope that we might have had a more enlightened decision seems to have been too much of a quantum jump for this elderly man of strict Catholic upbringing," the psychiatrist said afterwards.

In another California case a Lesbian mother with a drinking problem lost custody of her two children. She was permitted visitation only at times when she had not been drinking and was not accompanied by her lover. The judge's comments from the bench made clear that, despite favorable reports from the probation and social workers that the mother's homosexuality did not affect her care of the children, she would have little chance of regaining custody unless she gave up her lover as well as her drinking. She managed to do both and now lives alone with her two daughters. But at what price—not only to herself, but to her children as well?

To us this line of judicial reasoning—that Lesbianism does not detract from the mother's ability to raise her children as long as she lives alone with them—has many inherent dangers. Foremost, of course, is the effect upon the parent-child relationship. Dr. George Weinberg, a Manhattan psychotherapist and author of *Society and the Healthy Homosexual*, states: "I see nothing wrong with a Lesbian raising children, provided that she does not feel guilty about her Lesbianism." But the courts by these decisions that would cut off a very impor-

(continued on page 22)

A Gay Views Male Liberation

Part 2

by Wayne Jefferson

In Part I we discussed "men's liberation" as in Warren Farrell's new book The Liberated Man. The idea was that the usual male role or "code" demands strength, aggression, non-emotionality, action not growth, and quick genital sexuality--and that this role-assignment truly "oppresses" all males. We now turn to how it may affect the gay male in his relation with (1) other gay males--in sex, in affairs, in friendship, and (2) his own self, in "personal growth."

Now to pay dirt. How can being male oppress the gay male? This is virgin territory; it's hard to spot the villain. Is it being gay in straight society, or being male in machismo-America? (Or a bit of both, of course.) See what you think.

Let's talk about sex a bit first, OK? (Knew you'd agree.) It's usually believed that male sexual arousal is more sudden, simply visual, and detached from the personality of the other person while female arousal may be slower and depend more on context, values, empathetic understanding (yeah, all that gushy stuff, John Wayne!).

Sex: Hyper-Phallicism

Is this "by nature"--or by nurture, role-conditioning? We said that liberal thought often says that "we're all equal," but that this really only means "equal in basic human rights," not "equal in nature and identity"--but that the innate (non-cultural) differences which do exist rarely, if ever, justify or require unequal treatment of people. Blacks and whites do differ--Blacks being more liable to sickle-cell anemia, also more "advanced" evolutionally in many traits. Do straights and gays differ in hormonal counts? Males and females differ also (beyond the obvious "plumbing"). But the psycho-sexual differences mentioned above--are they inherent or learned? I always thought "innate" until I was told evidence that many other tribes and groups pride and train males to "take their time" in sex, have more sensuality, etc.

In any case, our culture's Male Code does emphasize "quick genital sexuality"--Cocksmanship, or the penis-centered pressure to perform--at the expense of slower, whole-body sensuality. (Which is perhaps felt to be "feminine," hence forbidden?) Farrell gives us some new directions here which would astonish the straight, har-de-har "Locker



Room" (and maybe even the silent-trade Tearoom). "A hard penis is not necessary for sexual enjoyment." We must "humanize the penis," "integrate the penis into sensuality rather than integrate sexuality into the penis." When "an emotional flow is added to semen flow," men can come to "enjoy sex after orgasm, something they formerly believed only women could do." As Farrell sums it up (in going beyond the Quickie):

Most men feel free to say "I'd really like to lay her" but do not feel free to say "I'd really like to lay by her." We become "pressure-cooker lovers." When the pressure is off the hard penis the focus on the rest of the body--on caressing, on sensual games like toe-touching under water or finger-sucking--tends to be greater. Redefining impotency, then, means eliminating the pressure on the penis to be upwardly mobile.

Now Farrell was discussing Suburbia, but is it really any different in the gayworld? (It may even be worse. How many tricks storm off disgusted if you don't--as the tearoom graffiti has it--"show hard"?) More questions than answers arise here. Does this "penis-centeredness" reach a pinnacle, so to speak, among at least some size queens? Are they liberated from puritan taboos against phallic-worship--or obsessively-compulsively driven to it--or just preferential specialists--or unliberated, male style? Arno Karlen sticks his neck out, or head, into a gay bar and tells us what it's like:

There is a good chance that one's pickup may want to neck and make love tenderly rather than just reach orgasm as quickly and impersonally as possible; but there

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THE NIGHT PORTER

JOSEPH E. LEVINE presents for ITAL NOLEGGIO CINEMATOGRAFICO
The ROBERT GORDON EDWARDS/ESA DE SIMONE production of
A Film By LILIANA CAVANI DIRK BOGARDE CHARLOTTE RAMPLING in
"THE NIGHT PORTER" with PHILIPPE LEROY and with GABRIELE FERZETTI
in the role of Hans Screenplay by LILIANA CAVANI ITALO MOSCATI
Produced by ROBERT GORDON EDWARDS for Lotar Film s.r.l.
Directed by LILIANA CAVANI Technicolor® An Avco Embassy release

by Sam Edwards

Joseph E. Levine, the Hollywood whiz who produced *The Graduate*, *Lion in Winter*, *Carnal Knowledge* and other notable films, has just released through Avco Embassy his first independent production, *The Night Porter*.

The Night Porter has an interesting history. Director-writer Liliana Cavani was at Dachau, the former German concentration camp, a few years ago filming a documentary. Production had been halted for a day due to a light rain, but Ms. Cavani was poking around the site. She noticed a 50 year old woman enter the camp and place a large bouquet of roses amid the ruins of one of the living huts. Sensing a story, she questioned the woman and found out that she had been a prisoner there as a young girl during World War II. While in prison she had met a young Nazi officer with whom she had fallen in love in spite of (or perhaps because of) his sadistic psychosexual treatment of her. At the close of the war she had been released from the camp, never seeing the officer again. She still loved him and returned each year to place flowers at the spot where they met.

Using this as a base, Ms. Cavani wrote *The Night Porter*, conjecturing what might happen should the lovers meet again. She chose Vienna in 1957 as a



setting because much Nazi intrigue continued there after the war and because the city has changed very little while other European cities have greatly changed.

In casting the production, Ms. Cavani (who also directed the film) chose Charlotte Rampling and Dirk Bogarde for the leading roles. Both had previously starred together in

The Damned. Ms. Rampling was chosen for her boyish beauty as well as her acting ability. The celebrated Mr. Bogarde, who used to accept a role in almost any potboiler that came along, has become very selective in his roles in the last several years. He takes on a part only if it has exceptional dramatic possibilities and has consequently taken



on a lot of wierd, far-out parts that other actors would have shunned.

His first departure from the clean cut leading man roles came in 1961 when he played the homosexual in *The Victim*. After the outcry from his female fans, Bogarde said, "I lost my fans and also my box office quotation, but I had found real roles to play."

In *The Night Porter* he has found a very real role to play as Max, a former Nazi SS officer, now living under the anonymous cloak of a night hall porter in a Vienna hotel. His former Nazi associates have all found positions of importance in society and have come to grips with their own guilt by forming a sort of therapy group. The group also has the more practical purpose of finding and burying (sometimes literally) witnesses to their crimes.

A few days before Max is due for his session with the group, a dangerous witness to his crimes appears at the hotel. She is Lucia (Charlotte Rampling) who was Max's teen-aged mistress and sado/masochistic torture toy at a Nazi concentration camp. Now the wife of an American orchestra conductor, she has come to Vienna with her husband, who is to perform at the opera house.

The meeting of Max and Lucia



fills them both with terror, but also brings a flood of flash-back memories of how the girl had been introduced to sex through pain by the SS officer. Included in the flash-backs are vivid homosexual scenes in which a young male dancer dances almost nude before the officers and is later sodomized while prisoners watch in an almost catatonic state of shock.

Both Max and Lucia are obsessed with the desire to relive some of their psycho/sexual experiences. When the opportunity presents itself, Lucia succumbs to Max again, willingly deserting her husband. Max suddenly refuses to cooperate further with his former Nazi associates because of what might happen to Lucia if it were discovered that she is still alive. He finds that he is really in love with her in a strange father/daughter, sadistic/sexual way.

To circumvent her discovery, both by the police who are looking for her at her husband's request and the "therapy" group, Lucia moves into Max's apartment. However, her location and identity are soon discovered by the former SS men who break into the apartment and find her in chains. She refuses to testify against Max and Max, in turn, refuses to surrender to his

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Male Liberation

(from page 13)

is also a good chance of picking up a guilt-ridden person who loathes his partner the moment sex is over. Gay bars are an unhappy experience for many men who are shy, find the meat-rack atmosphere humiliating, and really want emotional warmth more than sex.

But note that not only homosexual shame/guilt, but also male-type sexuality, may well be operating here. After all, "impersonal quickies" are found in straight-singles bars too. Another idea: many gay males at first resisted the idea of passive anal intercourse, and this uneasiness at being fucked might be a male-role fear of so-called "femine-passivity" after all. Even like unto the hustlers, who'll be done, but won't go down, give head themselves.

Actually, gays have at least as good a chance to escape the "one-shot-and-done" trip as do straights. In a nice bit of gay semi-chauvinism, Peter Fisher suggests that

A man knows a man's body. He knows what it feels like to be male, and where he is most sensitive to erotic feelings.... When two men or two women make love, they have a personal knowledge of the most intimate and intense pleasures which can be aroused in their bodies. They are more aware of the options available to them in seeking sexual fulfillment....

And in his "Sexuality Test for Gay Males," Ralph Schaeffer (in *Gay Sunshine*) made an early, awkward, but I think useful stab at pinpointing these very hangups. He felt negative answers to these questions indicated gay shame-and-guilt (he was discussing "oppression sickness"). But couldn't "no's" also diagnose male aloofness-control-genitality over sensuality-wariness-male-chauvinism over females?

2) Do you kiss your lover's mouth before, during, or after intercourse? 5) Do you often have sex with close friends? 7) After having good sex with a stranger, do you attempt to contact him later....? 10) Do you feel flattered if friends or acquaintances embrace or kiss you? 12) Do you sometimes have warm feelings for female acquaintances? 13) Do you usually get along with lesbians?

A lot's implied here about "personal growth"—blooming your feelings, transplanting them to others. The goal seems clear for males: to integrate sexuality into the other two realms of sensuality, and general emotionality. To heal the split between Bedroom and World. One could well envy gay women here

Affairs: Why So Brittle?

No foe of gays, Martin Hoffman, M.D., yet

notes that gay male "alliances" are often fragile, transitory, short-lived—and sometimes stormily promiscuous. This is in contrast to (most) straight liaisons, also lesbian ones (which should be as brittle as gay males if the "sickness" theory had been true of all gays as Unstable, etc.). But Hoffman links gay male promiscuity, not to pathology (compulsiveness, etc.), but to masculine psycho-sexuality as he sees it, to the simple fact of two males together:

Much of what has been said, only partly in jest, about males being promiscuous by nature and females being the stable member of the heterosexual pair, is true. Without the stabilizing female the dyad tends to break up. When two females interact, as in Lesbian relationships, the dyad tends to be more stable.

Well, here's the old "by nature" again. The doctor's being fair, but it's thin ice. If males are these erotic-nomadic Hunters, then why do so many gay males search for (as the ads say) "someone to come home to" and then why do so many resulting alliances fade sour, warp down and fizzle out after all? As Hoffman says, "in spite of the fact that so many homosexual men are lonely and alone they can't seem to find someone with whom to share even part of their lives." He does admit that gay shame/guilt operate here. (Two other reasons might be that gays are denied, from junior high onward, open practice in the long process of learning to love, which straights are allowed; also, gays are denied, again from the start, access to an open, visible reservoir of hundreds of potential mates to choose from finally in a socially approved manner—again, unlike straights, and look at their divorce rate.)

In any case, two males loving one another are going to have to be pretty liberated. Human-liberated (into "personal growth" together). Gay-liberated (from the shame and guilt which can seep in and clog up a relationship). And male-liberated—away from domination and competition, toward tenderness and cooperation. And emotionality; a brilliant criticism of the teleplay *That Certain Summer* was that the male couple in it was drawn much too much along straight male lines. No enthusiasm, affection, wackiness for **them!** As reviewer Richard Gollance sarcastically said:

These are Men, understand. They are in perfect control, never silly with each other, always reasonable, thoughtful, composed and mature.

That is, "emotionally constipated"? Good shot, Richard.

(continued on page 24)

OSCAR WILDE: IN PERSON

written by Gregg Flood and David Beard
 directed and produced by David Beard
 settings by David Emmons
 The Wisdom Bridge Theater
 1559 W. Howard St., Chicago
 8:30 p.m. weekends through April 1975
 Phone (312) 743-6442

Gregg Flood, a young actor who graduated from Northwestern University last spring, is presenting his one-man show titled **Oscar Wilde: In Person** through April at the Wisdom Bridge Theater. Mr. Flood, who wrote the script with David Beard of Chicago's Goodman Theater, makes his debut as a commercial actor in this production.

An earlier version of the play was presented three times last year at Northwestern University, primarily to college audiences. "I liked that version better," admits Flood. "It had whole sections of Wilde's *De Profundis* and tried to make social commentary." However, to please suburban audiences who wish to be entertained, the social commentary was eliminated and the quotes from *De Profundis* kept to a minimum.

The bulk of the monologue is in Wilde's own words. Flood and co-author Beard have found enough amusing material to keep even the dullest suburban audience amused. They may not know much about the tragedy of Oscar Wilde's life when they leave the theater, but they will certainly know that he was amusing, urbane, and a damned good story-teller. Although Mr. Flood's put-on English accent is absolutely atrocious, he does manage to convey some of the foppish snobbery that was characteristic of the real Wilde. His facial expressions are particularly effective in portraying the famous pouting lips of Wilde.

Set designer, David Emmons, also of Goodman Theater, has furnished the small open stage of the second floor 130-seat theater with a Victorian couch, table and podium. He has even provided a bad art nouveau back drop and a simpering portrait of Wilde's star-crossed lover Bosie (Lord Alfred Douglas).

Flood enters dressed in a frock coat and when he discovers that his audience has already arrived, he begins to chat in a witty manner

about his trip to America in the 1890's. He tells of appearing in a western town right after a man was "hung." "That's a tough act to follow," quips Wilde. After the performance I reminded Mr. Flood that pictures are "hung" and men (unless you wish to be coarse) are "hanged," a mistake that the real Wilde would never make. Flood explained that he had deliberately changed the word in order to follow American idiom.

The actor then launches into a dramatic reading of Wilde's *The Birthday of the Infanta*, a sentimental children's story for adults. Flood as Wilde is at his best during



this reading of a somewhat trite story. Why couldn't he read from *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, I wondered? Flood later admitted that he would like to read from *Dorian*, but was advised that a complete story of this type would be more appropriate.

After an intermission he reads a few lines from *In Praise of Shame* and tells a few more stories, including Wilde's famous remark when an adoring audience shouted "Author" at the opening of one of his plays. Rising majestically from his box seat, he dramatically raised his hand for silence and then said, "It is my unfortunate duty to inform you

that Mr. Oscar Wilde could not be present tonight." This is, indeed, an unfortunate choice of anecdotes for it serves to remind the present audience that, in spite of Flood's efforts, Mr. Oscar Wilde is not present tonight either.

Mr. Flood then presents another dramatic reading, this time using Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost*. The comic trials of an old English ghost at the hands of wealthy Texans who have bought the castle and are not at all impressed with the serious ghost delights the suburban audience, but bores the person who has

read the tale.

At last the actor turns serious and explains a tiny bit about the famous trials involving Wilde's homosexuality, without ever using the word. He does point out that Bosie's father, Lord Queensbury, spelled the word as "sodomite" in his note that started the whole fracas. Petulantly he says, "Bosie wanted me to prosecute." A few bits of *De Profundis* are thrown in and the evening is ended with more lines from *In Praise of Shame*: "The fates were weaving these threads of our divided lives."

As an actor, young Flood shows promise. His modesty about the difficult task of holding an audience as a solo performer for two hours is delightful. "Those old saws about the difficulty of doing a one-man show amuse me," he said. "I much prefer it this way. I can concentrate on my role with nobody else to interfere." That may be, but we non-actors can only marvel at the feat of memory and emotional stamina involved.

This reviewer could find little fault with Mr. Flood as an actor, but Mr. Flood as a writer (anthropologist?) is another matter. Considering the reams of Oscar Wilde writings to choose from, surely he could have found things more revealing about Wilde the man to present. The material is neither anti-gay nor liberating.

One cannot help feeling that the earlier version of the presentation had more going for it than this one. Mr. Flood says that his infatuation with Wilde dates back to "the fifth grade" when he read his first work by him. "Shrinks would probably make the most out of this, but let them," he said. He spent months in research and had ten or twelve hours of material that had to be cut down. He became so immersed in the role that he was developing that he refused to watch the superb recent television production *Feasting With Panthers* about Wilde, for fear that it would influence his performance.

Mary Pat Byrne, general manager of Wisdom Bridge, confided that producers are thinking of a national tour and/or an off-Broadway production of *Oscar Wilde: In Person* sometime in the next few months. If this transpires, I suggest that the vehicle be rewritten again else sophisticated New York audiences be disappointed. While it is true that Mr. Flood has not set out to do a definitive Oscar Wilde, a closet Oscar Wilde is not needed or wanted by today's audiences.

"A MOVIE TO MAKE YOU REMEMBER YOUR OWN LOVES, WHATEVER YOUR PARTNER PREFERENCES

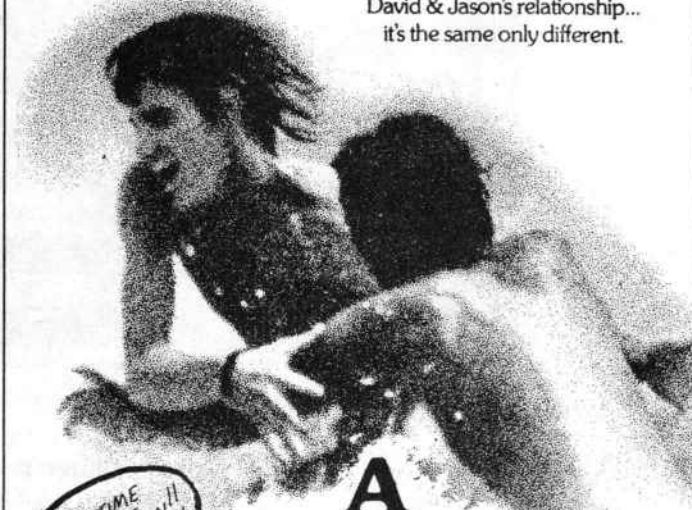
an eye-opener and a heart opener."

— Norma McLain Stoop, AFTER DARK

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— A. H. Weiler, N. Y. TIMES

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it's the same only different.



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OFF THE RECORD

The record reviews below represent a continuation of those which were begun in the previous issue of GPU NEWS (Volume 4, No. 5, March, p. 19 and following). All five in fact were mentioned in the introductory historical survey which preceded the individual reviews in that issue. As in that issue, some records (for instance, *God Save the Queens*) will probably never achieve any real popularity among gay discophiles, and some (e.g., Mike Cohen's first record) may simply no longer be available. Since this is the first attempt on the part of GPU NEWS to offer extensive record reviews, these records have been included to make our beginning as complete and historically informative as possible. As always, the Editor (and the present reviewer) invites reader feedback and suggestions. Record reviews are new to homophile publications because records by openly gay artists are new to the recording industry, but there is little doubt that the future will see more of them.

As with Chris Robison in the last issue, one artist, Paul Wagner, is singled out below as of special merit. Merit of course is a partially subjective thing; and, even if it were not, not all records singled out as being especially worthwhile will appeal

Mike Cohen, by Michael Cohen. Diadelphous Stamens, Inc. Price and ordering information unknown (perhaps unknowable).

Performance: competent.

Recording: fair to middling.

What Did You Expect? by Michael Cohen. Folkways FS8582. \$5.98. (Folkways Records, 17 West 60th Street, New York City, N.Y.)

Performance: excellent.

Recording: excellent, channel separation not always perfect.

An extensive review of the second record by Bruce Michael, with a selection of the lyrics (complete texts with the record) was published in GPU NEWS of July, 1974. The first album is noted

only for completeness. Cohen's best songs are invariably the simplest ones (for instance, "Couldn't Do Without" and "Bittersweet"). On every repeated listening I have come to enjoy this album more; so, if it should not appeal to you the first time around, give it a chance to grow and nurture. One hopes that Cohen's contract with Folkways is indicative of more things to come.

Caravan Tonight, by Steven Grossman. Mercury Records. \$5.98. (May be ordered from Oscar Wilde Bookstore: add 50¢ for post and handling.)

Performance: lyrical, intimate, autobiographical.

Recording: excellent.

to the same listener. Robison offered hard rock, tonal innovation, and lyrics which were both openly gay and overtly sexual. Paul Wagner lives in another musical and lyrical universe: not innovative, soft and romantic, gay without striving for sexual exploration, and utilizing the best of the standard features of folk idiom. They are singled out because each artist does extremely well in what he does, but they are doing different things.

Finally, I cannot forebear mentioning that the reason male artists only have been reviewed in these two issues has not been due to any conscious or unconscious sexism on my part or that of the Editor. A similar claim, of course, can't be made for the record industry: one can only review what is available for listening. One record (and possibly also a single) has been announced by a gay woman: Meg Christian's *I Know You Know* (Olivia Records, P.O. Box 1784, Main City Station, Washington, D.C. 20013). Many letters from both myself and the Editor have been sent to the producer during the past months requesting information, ordering procedures, or even a review copy; but, to date, no response of any kind has been received. A perennial problem for small producers and distributors is lack of staff and inability to promote adequately their own artists. If information is forthcoming on this or any similar records in the future, it will be made available to GPU NEWS readers.

As in the last issue, as much ordering information has been provided as I could acquire; and, also as in the last issue, the reader is warned to write for information about availability before sending any prepaid order to the sources indicated.

Grossman makes no pretense of aiming this album at anything but a gay audience; and, though he has accepted his gayness, he is far from reconciling himself with many aspects of gay life. "There's something that still isn't right/All this boozing and cruising does nothing more/Than to give me the pain in my song." If one feeling could be said to dominate his art (or at least this aspect of it), it would have to be loneliness: "Oh Lord won't you help me/I'm tired and stoned/I'm anxious and angry, and want to go home/But not all alone." The closing lines of the album are far from happy ones, though they are the words of a man resolved to the acceptance of his gayness; and this

(continued on page 31)

POEMS by ED COX

POEM FOR HART CRANE

I.

All night the river draws tight.
The Bridge looms wide,
 green steel,
Brackish,
 the cords drawn to ice,
Breath inching,
 pushing out at all sides.

II.

This would be a place
Where you would walk, dark,
No cadence,
No climbing rush to trains,
In a cord of place
That brings towns, early hours,
Strolls home,
Those quick cruises to the docks.

All here, the green rising,
Stretched out over the Hudson.
Bridge, you.
Light off the Coast of Mexico:
Lost cord, Phrase
And you a poem, Always.

III.

What is to be learned from you?:
The twenties. Names of presidents
I don't care to remember, recall,
Out of text their prohibitions
Driving you to riskier bars
Where men
 if an eye flash
Stood out cords on a Bridge a gap.

That Bridge as wide in your room
As your words trafficking back and forth:
Train, Bridge, your name —
 the constant
 traveller—
The lone walk: Bar, Bridge, and Ships:

You: engulfed,
Afraid as all of us.





WINDOWS

rain wake to
breathing of a friend, Bobbie,
his head brown hair
and sitting up to see his neck
wanting him to move,
pull back covers
his legs,
cock I wanted to touch
even while he would sleep
& me shaking
erect, moon, leaf, smell of his body
wanting him to stir
slow
afraid as me to touch
be together in dark
through walls
door shutting two flights up

Ed Cox, 28, was born and raised in Washington D.C. After 8 years of Catholic grade and high school and 2 years as an apprentice printer, he served almost 4 years in the U.S. Navy. He became involved in the GI Anti-War Movement with the Baltimore Peace Committee and then returned to Washington D.C. working at the DMZ, a GI coffeeshouse before becoming a counselor at Washington Free Clinic. He is now employed as a secretary for National Endowment for the Arts and is involved with Washington's Gay Blade community newspaper and community center task force which hopes to set up a gay community center. His poetry has appeared in several gay journals, but these poems mark his debut in GPU NEWS.

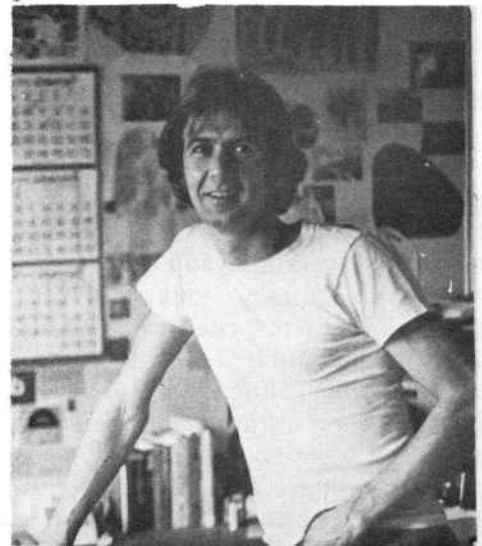


Photo by Tom Shelton

Lesbian Mothers (from page 12)

tant aspect of her self and her life are in effect punishing the mothers for their Lesbianism. With punishment there is also the implication of guilt.

What will happen to these women who are being cavalierly and callously shoved back into the closet? The burden of guilt and frustration could be overwhelming. What began as a loving and healthy parent-child relationship could be destroyed by denial, loneliness, self-pity and martyrdom. Mothers—even Lesbian mothers—need satisfying and fulfilling adult relationships in order to be well-rounded persons. Expecting them to sacrifice their own needs and to devote themselves solely to the role of mothering is to reduce them to a slave relationship which can only breed hate and contempt. Is this in “the best interests of the child”? We think not.

Luckily some judges have concurred. The second breakthrough for Lesbian mothers came in 1973 when the State of Michigan Court of Appeals found that there was indeed sufficient evidence to support the conclusion that Arlene Smith and Eunice Brown were engaged in a Lesbian relationship, but “very little to support the conclusion that this relationship rendered the home an unfit place for the children to reside.” The children—all eight of them—who had been placed in foster homes by state authorities were returned to their natural mothers. Furthermore, there was no restriction placed upon the relationship of the two women. The reunion has been a happy one. “You can see the real difference in the smiles on the children’s faces now, and even more, in their school records,” said William Hayes, the attorney from Flint who filed the appeal in behalf of the children because they had been “denied the substantial right of the love and care of their parents.”

The Schuster-Isaacson case also has a happy sequel. In 1974 they were brought back into court by their ex-husbands because they had violated the decree. They were accused of: living together (having taken adjoining apartments), taking the children out of state, and publicizing their relationship. A different judge heard the case and concluded that “the children are healthy, happy, normal, loving children,” that “the mothers have shown stability, integrity and openness,” that “although these children will grow up knowing more about homosexuality and human sexuality in general than most children, this knowledge need not predispose them to become homosexuals,” and that “it would be in the best interests” of the children if the mothers were permitted to live to-

gether and merge their families.

The American Civil Liberties Union handled the second Schuster-Isaacson hearing and also took on the Hall case in Ohio. Dr. Richard Green, associate professor of psychiatry at the University of California School of Medicine in Los Angeles and director of the Gender Identities Research and Treatment Program with the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California, appeared as an expert witness on behalf of the mother. He said that the likelihood of homosexual parents having homosexual children had been highly exaggerated, since most homosexuals come from heterosexual homes and have been reared in the heterosexual tradition. Green also dismissed the lack of male models for children of Lesbians, pointing out that “children cannot grow up today in a social vacuum.” They see male-female role modeling everywhere—in advertising and on television, and among their teachers, friends and relatives. The children of Lesbians would probably adopt the standard and traditional culture, Green declared. The one difference they might show in contrast to other children would be a greater tolerance for people whose lifestyle is atypical. When asked about the risk of child molestation, Green pointed out this is essentially a male act, and in most cases heterosexual at that. He also saw no reason why the mother’s homosexuality should be of embarrassment to the child, since the mother would attempt to be forthright and honest about her relationship and since there is a climate of social change in attitudes.

The judge—as in so many other cases—asked, “How is the sex act between Lesbians accomplished?” Green replied, “The most common form of sexual expression between two females is by mutual manipulation of the genitalia.” To the court’s next question about that being “normal,” Green said that it was also practiced by heterosexuals. Some eighty percent of heterosexuals engage in oral sex, he added, and one could therefore consider it a common human sexual practice.

There was no reference to such activity being against the law, since the Hall case was tried in Ohio, one of the eight states that have repealed their antiquated sex laws. But the Chaffin decision referred to earlier did state: “The commission of certain homosexual acts is a criminal offense in California (Pen. Code 286, 288a), albeit an offense not readily susceptible to criminal prosecution.” The knowledge that a Lesbian mother probably commits illegal acts and is therefore an unapprehended felon can weigh heavily against her. In fact an aide to one of the justices of the California Supreme Court indicated that most judges would assume that a Lesbian has committed illegal

sex acts unless proven otherwise; whereas, they would assume that a heterosexual mother has engaged **only** in legal sex activity (the missionary position) unless proven otherwise. This is a glaring example of sex discrimination, according to a law student, "if it is okay for a man to sleep with a woman, but not okay for a woman to sleep with a woman."

In the earliest Lesbian mother custody case we have knowledge of (Nadler, California, 1967) the court wanted to know what acts were performed, when, where, with whom and where the children were at the time. It wasn't enough that the mother admitted being a Lesbian and stated that she had engaged in homosexual activity over a period of almost two years with three women and that the "acts" were performed in her home while the children were spending the night at the babysitter's. Under protest she was forced to reveal the names and addresses of her Lesbian partners. The judge ruled that the father's attorney had the right to know who these people were. Withholding such information would deny him access to relevant testimony as to the type of people the mother associated with, he contended. After all, they might be "felons" and continued association with felons has been grounds for denying custody to a parent, the judge pointed out.

With all that information the judge still wasn't satisfied. He expressed his own prurient curiosity, "Now, I would like to know what she does with other women that constitutes the act. Maybe she just shakes hands. I don't know." The mother was forced to plead the fifth amendment, and pleading the fifth, of course, is tantamount to admitting guilt.

For this reason attorneys for Schuster and Isaacson advised their clients to avoid this tactic during their custody trial. In a day-long grilling on the stand Sandy was badgered continuously by the attorney for the fathers to describe the sexual activity she and Maddy engaged in. She beat about the bush and answered his questions vaguely. Finally he pulled out a copy of the penal code and read the Washington sex laws to her. Then he asked if she had ever performed any of these illegal acts. Sandy looked both surprised and concerned as she replied, "I guess I really did break the law! I certainly didn't know it at the time. But I suppose I broke the law when I was married—to my husband." The attorney dropped this line of questioning.

It has been argued that the criminal sanctions against homosexual conduct in the penal code is an indication that society believes such conduct to be immoral. Such a conclusion is not necessarily

valid, however. What is against the law are certain specific sex acts, whether performed by heterosexuals or homosexuals. The act is the same—no matter who does it—and it is practiced by the majority of heterosexuals as well as homosexuals, according to Dr. Green. Indeed, it is **encouraged** by marriage counselors and sex therapists to buck up a tired marriage. Furthermore, all types of community organizations—including the Church—have come out in support of sex law reform. The chief opposition comes from law enforcement agents who do not wish to relinquish any of their power and who have for too long been allowed to assume the role of determining what is socially acceptable.

But sex law reform cannot be accomplished by the gay community alone. Heterosexuals, because they are seldom prosecuted, are generally unaware that they, too, are breaking the law. Marriage manuals and books that tell people how to enhance their sex lives never point out that the sexual activity they describe and espouse is illegal in forty-two states. These enlightened educators need to be put on the spot and pressured into working as actively for sex law reform. Only with their help can such change be accomplished. Only then will Lesbian mothers be assured that determination of the custody of their children will be based upon the parent-child relationship (as it should be) rather than the sexual orientation of the parent.

(Copyright Ly Mar Associates, 1975.)

References and Referrals for Lesbian Mothers

Agencies

Marilyn Haft, Director
National Sexual Privacy Project
American Civil Liberties Union
22 East 40th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016
212/ 725-1222

Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon
West Coast Representatives for
above ACLU project
330 Ellis Street, Room 401
San Francisco, Ca. 94102
415/ 928-2480

Lesbian Mothers National
Defense Fund
2446 Lorentz Place North
Seattle, Wa. 98109
206/ 324-3571 or 282-5798

Women's Litigation Unit
San Francisco Neighborhood
Legal Assistance Foundation
1095 Market Street, Room 306
San Francisco, Ca. 94103
415/ 626-3819

National Gay Task Force
80 Fifth Avenue, Room 903
New York, N.Y. 10011
212/ 741-1010

References

Women's Rights Law Reporter
180 University Avenue
Newark, N.J. 07102
"Lesbian Mothers" by Rose
Basile in Volume 2, Numbers 2
3 - \$3.00 each

Seattle National Organization
for Women
2252 N.E. 65th
Seattle, Wa. 98115
NOW's amica brief in Schuster-
Isaacson case - \$4.00

Multi Media Resource Center
540 Powell Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94108
"Sandy and Madeleine's Family"
a documentary film which has
been entered as evidence in Les-
bian mother custody cases -
\$40.00 rental

Male Lib

(from page 16)

Friendship : Anaesthetized?

No problem here, right? At least for most straight males. After all, aren't there your "asshole buddies" (the "mates" of Britain), and "the boys"—or **Men in Groups** as the book-title has it—who work and play together in all-male enclaves from frats and clubs on up to groups important in shaping history?

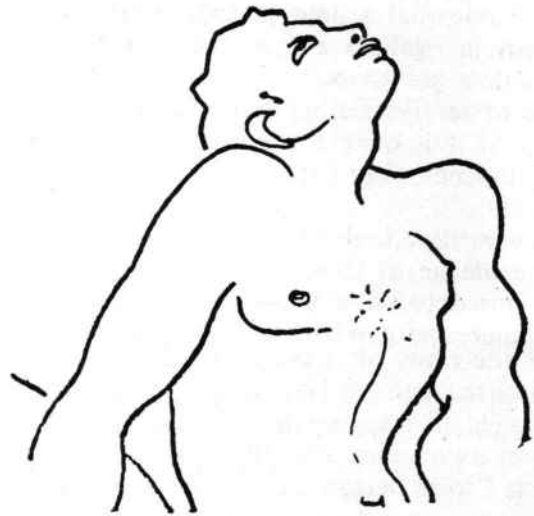
But a deeper glance shows a shallowness here. Too often the encounters are emotionally thin under the skin. The back-slapping, har-de-har encounters of the Locker Room are ritualized. Too often "shallow, overconventionalized, and brittle," and their "coarse banter, endless wisecracking and horseplay" are not at all the same as (the absent) "warmth, natural spontaneity, and affection" (W. Churchill). Or as James Baldwin put it in **Giovanni's Room**: "blunt, bluff, hearty, and totally meaningless."

There's another side, of course—that long tradition of male friendship, comradeship, companionship; brotherhood. It runs all the way from David and Jonathan, through the "adhesive love" of Walt Whitman, right on up into Men's Liberation today. "The idea of a buddy is just the vulgarization of it," says Allen Ginsberg. There's variety. He notes **carezza**, "a platonic friendship in which people sleep together naked, caressing each other, but don't come, saving their seed for yogic or other reasons." Also, he claims to know lots of men who *may not want to sleep naked together, but they have a love thrill in the breast for each other and yet are completely heterosexual genitally. And I wouldn't be surprised if that is, among the mass of men, a universal experience, completely accepted, completely common, completely shared.*

Perhaps—though a bit "leaned on" in heavy Yankee territory, I'm afraid.

One could claim gay males do better here. True; and yet, we've had our own version of the har-de-har locker room. Just as impersonal, basically, is sisterly dishing. High-camp chatter, while zippy, shouldn't be mistaken for real closeness. Part of this is due, of course, to oppressed-minority status. As W. Churchill noted, straight society is non-permissive for a gay person so that

often in "gay" society this person is so busy "letting his hair down" that he has no opportunity to reflect upon the real nature of his deepest feelings....the ensuing atmosphere is usually one of forced hilarity in which no one really reveals his true identity.



Drawing - Jean Cocteau

Arno Karlen (as usual) makes a more stabbing thrust, suggesting a domain of sleepwalkers:

Much of the irritation a straight person feels among the gay is due to the fact that the homosexual's role-playing crowds out authentic behavior. The straight feels as though he is talking to actors who hold to their scripts no matter what he says to them.

In contrast to all this, here's how true male closeness—comradely brotherhood—slowly took root within a straight men's encounter group. Straight, mind you. Can gays do as well? (Why do some gays feel "it's easier to be friends with a straight"?)

Why is it so much harder for me to be gentle or open with another man than to be witty or garrulous (talkative), or cool and foreboding?

....our feelings for one another were intense and insecure. We were full of jealousy and coyness as well as simplicity and honesty. We fell into a certain shy affection in greeting that reminded me in its tenderness of puppy love. We were learning not to be afraid of one another. We hugged when we met, whether on the street or in our houses, and I was soon beginning to feel the bodies of the men I was touching, not merely giving and receiving a blunt embrace and a quick squeeze before retreating. (Michael Weiss)

This powerfully strong statement would (ironically) seem "weak and squishy" to Archie Bunker. Brotherhood is neat and sweet, but one must un-man himself to get to it.

"Gay Male Lib" : Four Steps

The first step is "personal growth," liberation as a human being. This involves getting to one's own true feelings, being truly honest with oneself, then risking the honest, game-free sharing of them with

others. Then, personal growth involves relating to those others—"really trusting and caring about other human beings," which, you will note, requires intimacy, support, affection, openness, which, you will note, are not typically "male" traits!

The gay male has four hurdles to pass to get to full liberation. The first is in just being HUMAN; not everyone is either open to, or interested in, the "personal growth" described above. The second is, as we've seen, being a MALE—conditioned to be "emotionally constipated," wary-defensive, controlling, never vulnerable nor introspective, and all the rest. Not much growth-potential there. The third strike is being in an OPPRESSED MINORITY group, and the fourth is in being specifically HOMOSEXUAL and having to "come out" of that to become gay—a very different thing. These last two are almost impossibly tangled up with each other.

All oppressed minorities (even pot smokers, Puerto Rican street gangs, and ideological extremists) share certain "traits of victimization." They can include obsessive and wary defensiveness, and clowning; passivity and withdrawal and denial, or in-group chauvinism, hyper-pride. W. Churchill—a friend of gays—yet notes that, as a group, gay males have

all the vainglorious pride, all the contempt of self, all the chauvinism, all the sense of alienation coupled with a desire for conformity, that are characteristic of any other persecuted minority.

And critic Benjamin DeMott—who is not anti-queer either—yet notes homosexual "arrogance," "aristocratic poses," and "flights of defensive scorn or resentment." Not a nice roster. But an observable one. But, one which is due to being (in the vivid language of the Street) "fucked over" by social oppression, not "fucked up" in the head, or Sick. A distinction which everyone should keep clear. Thus if gays are (as E. Hooker and M. Hoffman—also simpatico to gays—state) "anxious, guarded, withdrawn, and obsessive-compulsive," it's due to minority-oppression. (Note—note indeed the uncanny similarity of much of the above traits to those of the American male—"wary and moose-like," etc.—and he the kingpin, un-oppressed except of course by the rigid Code!)

Are there any minority-traits specific to the homosexual or gay subculture? Who knows. But there are a couple of powerful "unwritten laws" (traditional conventions) of the gayworld which should be repealed. An absolute prerequisite to this of course "Head-Clearing," really getting rid of internalized shame and guilt. Otherwise these bad vibes seep into gay-gay interactions. (As Paul

Goodman said, "since they disapprove of what they are doing, they are not supposed to like the partners in it.") The first convention is the atmosphere of "Heavy Cruising," the hyper-genital notion that all gay male interaction couldn't be for anything else than to slide or skid seductively into the sack—maybe quick and impersonal, "scoring numbers," "getting a trick," that is, "having" sex not "making" love. Sex before friendship, and separate from it. And all the rest. (Note—this isn't anti-sexual puritanism I'm suggesting; indeed, it could only make sex itself better!)

The second convention is a sort of "City of Night" one—the gayworld's "endless repetitions of casual relationships," its "lack of trust," its general attitude of "rip off your brother" or "to hell with your buddy." In fact, "waspishness, pettiness, and disloyalty." And, just suppose that you—oh, excuse me, "someone"—is a little afraid of what "personal growth" demands, namely insight plus intimacy and commitment, but at the same time is **desirous and needful** of it (and who isn't, being human?). Then note that the gayworld as still operating offers a tremendous chance (or trap) to continue avoiding these things. That domain of sad sleepwalkers

Coming Out of the Shell

Do we pause to consider? Do we really fetch in to each other, beyond the tired cliches of phrase and feeling? Do we lay ourselves open? Wait with a point (stated or felt) and work with it together—to get closer, wherever it leads, idea-wise or more personally? Or do we rush on and let things be passed over? And so the evening passes; and so our time together. We don't always dig in—really introspect and ponder ourselves, and also listen to others, with openness. Are we strong enough to remove the armor? ("Man" the talker, the problem-solver, the decision-maker, quickly and always in control, the thinker not feeler. Thus the Male Code crimps personal growth.) By the way, does anyone feel what the hell I'm talking about here at all?

Then we're ashamed when our tentative, hesitant overtures toward real (not plastique) closeness are ignored or rebuffed. Even tho this "negative feedback" maybe came out of the identical fears-and-needs of the other person too! Too threatening. So the dismal downward spiral starts up; "why try again." Back to the grooves, the channels. So we wash back out again to narcotization, by means of drugs, sex, Work-aholism, or inane petty sociality. Noisy bars and lonely rooms. Or, we do get

(continued on page 36)

HERE&HERE

St. Paul, Minn. - A team of three theologians at Luther Theological Seminary is undertaking a study of Biblical passages relating to homosexuality. The study will touch on the injunctions against same-sex behavior in Paul's Epistle to the Romans, as well as contrasting the death penalty for sodomy, ordered in Leviticus, with the relationship between David and Jonathan. Dr. Frederick Gaiser, head of the team, expects to deliver a report on the study at the March board meeting of Midway Pastoral Counseling Center. The center has a long history of supportive counseling of gay parishioners in the Twin Cities.

-*Advocate*

Alderson, W.V. - "Lesbianism in Prison" was the title of an article by an inmate of 2½ years at the Federal Reformatory for Women here. According to the article, 20% of the women there were lesbians "on the street" and close to 90% "played" while on the inside. Rape or forced sexual acts are foreign concepts among women, although ¾ of the relationships were based on exploitation, such as for commissary goods, while ¼ were genuine, caring relationships.

-*Lavender Woman*

New York - The American Association for the Advancement of Science recently voted 31-55 to adopt a resolution stating that the Association "deplores any form of discrimination on the basis of sexual behavior." The resolution uses the term "sexual minorities" to include gays, transvestites, transsexuals, etc.

-*Ohio East Gay News*

U.S.A. - A reliable source reports that the **Mary Tyler Moore Show** next season will have a regular gay character and that auditions have narrowed the choice to two actors.

-*Chicago Gay Crusader*

U.S.A. - The American Bar Association is considering a resolution recommending reform of rape laws to protect women and take into account homosexual attacks. "Men, in almost all states, cannot be the victim of rape by statutory definition," said Connie Borkenhagen, author of the resolution. In an interview at the ABA's midannual business session, she said her two-year research shows homosexual rapes are common in prison.

-*Gay Scene*

Washington - The U.S. Civil Service Commission has given tentative approval to new regulations that will permit openly gay persons to seek, and continue to hold, civilian jobs. Sources close to the commission said that formal enactment is a foregone conclusion. The move opens 2½ million federal jobs that were officially denied gays and means that gays who are already civil servants of federal departments and agencies can come out at last. "Gays could talk about their sexual experiences and life styles at the office to the same extent that non-gays can now do so," said General Counsel Anthony Mondello.

-*Contact*

New York City - The Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court has ruled that the state and city departments of social services must finance a sex-change operation for a 41-year-old transsexual who has been living as a woman for the past 16 years. The decision overturned an earlier ruling which dismissed a petition for public payment of the surgery. The court said there was psychiatric evidence the petitioner was suffering severe psychopathology and that state law "does not restrict medical assistance to purely physical problems."

-*Milwaukee Journal*

New York - Sexual minority persons are now protected under an affirmative action statement released by NBC-TV (the National Broadcasting Company) during a summit meeting with gay leaders. In addition it was reported that a series of meetings will be held here and in Los Angeles to allow direct gay input to production personnel and program executives. It is hoped this will pave the way for positive gay images in all areas of television.

-*Pittsburgh Gay News*

Lansing, Mich. - A Lesbian Music Extravaganza is tentatively planned for April 25 and 26 by Lansing Area Lesbians and Ambitious Amazons. Any lesbian musicians interested in playing, contact Lesbian Connection, P.O. Box 811, East Lansing, Mi. 48823 or call (517) 332-1770 or (517) 371-5257. For lesbians only!

-*Lavender Woman*

Scotland - The Scottish National Party will be asked to safeguard the rights of homosexuals under any constitution for an independent Scotland. A motion by the Federation of Student Nationalists at the party's annual conference in May will urge that the law on homosexuality be brought into line with that of England.

-*Gay News*

Boston, Mass. - Catholic priest and chaplain for Dignity/Boston, Paul Shanley, has produced a one-hour audio cassette "Straight Talk About Gays." With permission of Cardinal Medeiros, Fr. Shanley has worked with gays over four years. The tape has been hailed as a refreshing break from long-standing homophobia and indifference visited upon gays in the name of God by well-meaning church personnel. The tape is available for \$8.95 from AMPRO, 101 Tremont St., Boston, Ma. 02108.

-*Dignity*

THE GAY GOURMET

Extra - Ordinary Goulash

Our three semi-secret seasonings do lift this dish out of the dullish realm of paprikash hash to create easy, economical, but quite subtle fare for either of two dining situations—workaday “weeknight” or ritzy “candlelight.”

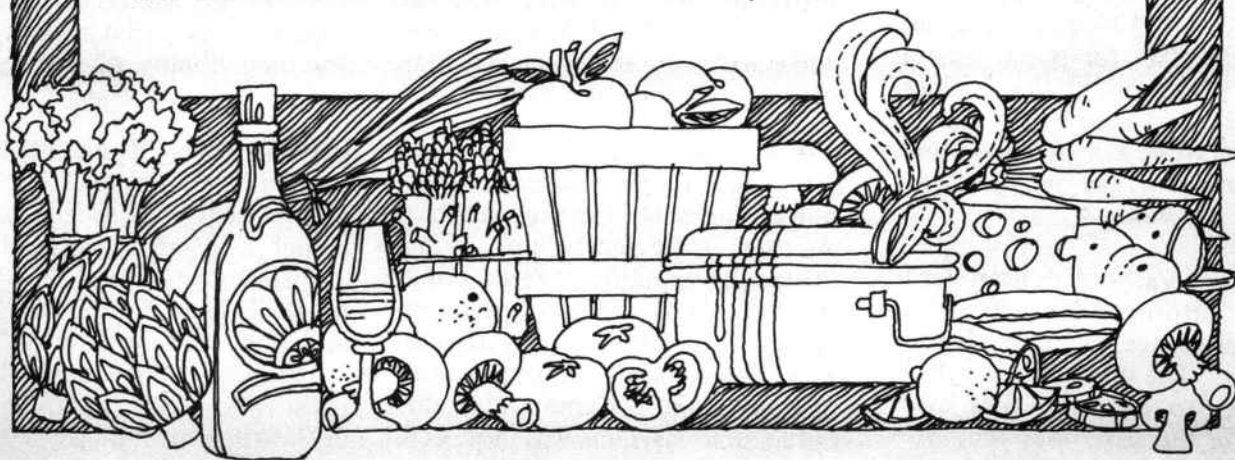
(1) Assemble all this together:

- 1/2 lb. beef (chuck or stew) - diced into 3/4 in. cubes
- 2/3 lb. onions - chopped up
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 1 large can tomatoes - drained, chopped up
- 2 tablespoons flour
- “Dish of Seasonings” (see below)
- noodles - cooked at the last moment

(2) In a small dish, combine 2 tsp crushed marjoram, 2 tsp grated lemon rind, 1 tsp crushed caraway seeds, plus 2 smashed cloves garlic and 1/2 tsp salt. (This farrago or potpourri is your secret Potentiator or Activator!)

(3) On stove top, heat a little oil in a large coverable pot. Cook the seasonings in it briefly. Dump in onions and stir around until half-cooked only; then sprinkle in paprika; then pour in tomatoes; then slop in the beef. Last, stir in the flour—if all is too dry, add a little liquid (beef stock or tomato juice, maybe)—but avoid soupiness.

(4) Then cover and simmer, **slowly**, until done—only about half an hour. Serve on the mounds of steaming, buttered noodles which will s-t-r-e-t-c-h and absorb the flavors of this out-of-the-ordinary stew.



HERE&THERE

New York - A Western New York mother was denied custody of her three children, ages 3, 5 and 8, as the result of court action initiated by her ex-husband, who alleged that she was unfit as a mother because, as a lesbian, she would exercise an "unhealthy influence" on the children. Despite two days of testimony which was largely in favor of the mother, the judge granted custody of all three children to the father, with visitation for the mother on weekends provided her lover is not present.

-*Fifth Freedom*

New Zealand - A step is now being considered by the New Zealand Parliament to legalize homosexuality.

-*Gay News*

Hackensack, N.J. - John Gish is appealing rulings by the New Jersey State School Commissioner which put him in a non-teaching position and ordered a psychiatric examination to determine if Gish is fit to teach. He was fired from his classroom teaching position because of his leadership positions in gay organizations. School officials surmised he was gay and would have an unhealthy effect on his students. He is asking the State Board of Education for a full hearing. Gish has declined to state for public record what his sexual orientation is since he sees the real issue in his case as one's right to be a member of, and spokesperson for, gay organizations.

-*Advocate*

Alexandria, Va. - American Civil Liberties attorneys here have entered a challenge to Virginia's sodomy laws. The suit is a class action and seeks to have the laws overturned on the basis that they violate the constitutional right of privacy.

-*The Barb*

Elk Grove Village, Ill. - The American Civil Liberties Union has dropped a suit against this Chicago suburb for not hiring David C. Gardner as a fireman. The suit claimed the village denied him the job because of an isolated teenage homosexual experience. In an agreement between ACLU and the village, the fire-and-police commission said it would not discriminate in the future in similar cases and denied it had discriminated in Gardner's case. The commission also offered the job to Gardner, but he turned it down.

-*Advocate*

Oakland, Ca. - Mayor John Reading of Oakland told Metropolitan Community Church pastor Rev. Gary Wilson that he would not cooperate with gay leaders and that he felt that all queers were sick. Wilson stated that talks with other city officials were more productive and he has no intention of allowing the mayor to close his office to the needs of the gay community.

-*The Barb*

San Francisco - Gay comedians and singers in drag put on a 90-minute show for 35 wheelchair-ridden patients at Ft. Miley Veterans Administration Hospital here. The cast for what was the third annual such show was recruited from San Francisco's gay bar revues.

-*Contact*

San Diego, Calif. - Superior Court Judge Verne O. Warner dismissed the cases of five men, one a former California Republican Party Chairman, who were arrested in the restroom of a May Company Department Store for alleged oral copulation, a felony. Warner ruled that the search warrant was not valid and then ordered the evidence suppressed.

-*Advocate*

Boston, Mass. - Dignity, the gay Catholic organization, announced plans for this year's national convention to be held in Boston on Labor Day Weekend, August 29 to September 1. Suggestions for speakers and workshop topics should be sent to Dignity's national office, 755 Boylston St., Room 514 Boston, Mass. 02216.

-*Advocate*

Minneapolis - United Methodist Voluntary Services granted \$3,600 to Gay Community Services, Inc., Minneapolis, to hire a full-time administrator for the two-year-old counseling and education agency. The funds will be matched with local donations to provide a \$400 monthly salary through 1975.

-*Advocate*

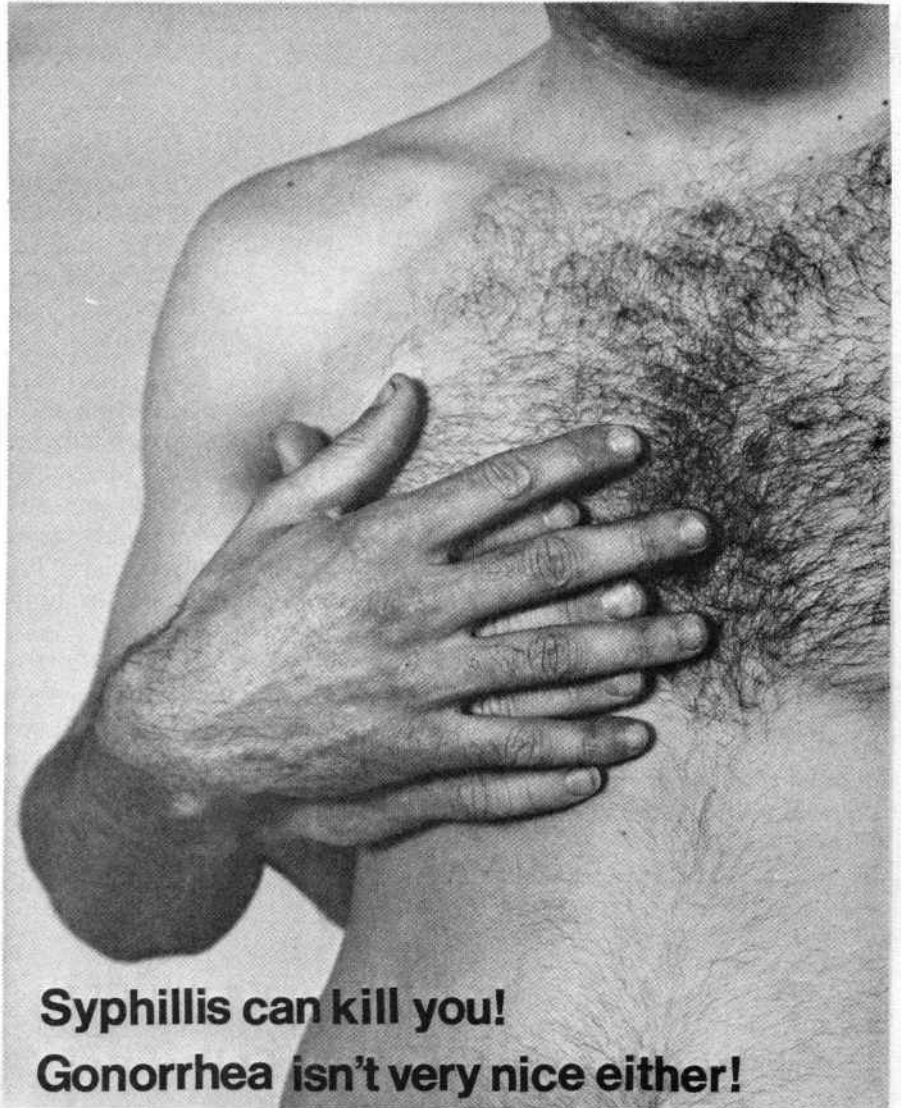
Auckland, New Zealand - The annual General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand declared that national laws prohibiting sex between consenting adult males should be promptly repealed. However, the convention added that homosexual acts are "contrary to all God intended man to be" and said they pose a threat to family life and the stability of the home. The convention further said that governments should set up agencies to assist gays who seek treatment for their homosexuality.

-*Advocate*

Cardiff, Wales - The annual conference of the National Union of Journalists will be asked by local branches to introduce a rule that a journalist "shall not originate material designed to encourage discrimination on grounds of" sexual orientation. Then any NUJ journalist who wrote anything to stir up hostility toward gays would be liable to a fine or expulsion from the union.

-*Gay News*

SOLUTION
TO
CROSSWORDS
PAGE 9



Syphillis can kill you!
Gonorrhea isn't very nice either!

The incidence of VD, both syphilis and gonorrhea, is very high in Milwaukee. The largest increase in incidence for VD has been in the gay community during the last year.

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HERE&THERE

Rochester, Mn. - An official policy banning discrimination on basis of sexual preference was deleted when school board members met to revise the Rochester School District's policy on discrimination, but a statement on marital status was retained. The revision was an attempt to bring local regulations in compliance with state law.

-*Advocate*

Boston, Mass. - A 23-year-old rookie police officer has been dismissed from the Boston police force allegedly due to the fact that he was seen in the company of a known homosexual. The Boston Police Patrolmen's Association has filed suit on behalf of Ronald T. Grant to obtain his reinstatement.

-*The Barb*

Palo Alto, Ca. - Dick Lewis of the Stanford University Gay Community of Concern project announced the reception of the first installment of a 3-year \$90,000 grant to study the needs of gay people.

-*The Barb*

Nashville, Tenn. - During the first full week of January, Nashville was host to all ordained Methodist female ministers, numbering 450 in the U.S. Caroly Jonah, assistant minister to Highland Park Trinity Methodist Church and the home of Metropolitan Community Church Detroit, was one of the 300 attending. She later reported on the pro-gay proclamation which will be presented to the full general conference to be convened later in 1975 or early 1976.

-*One in Detroit*

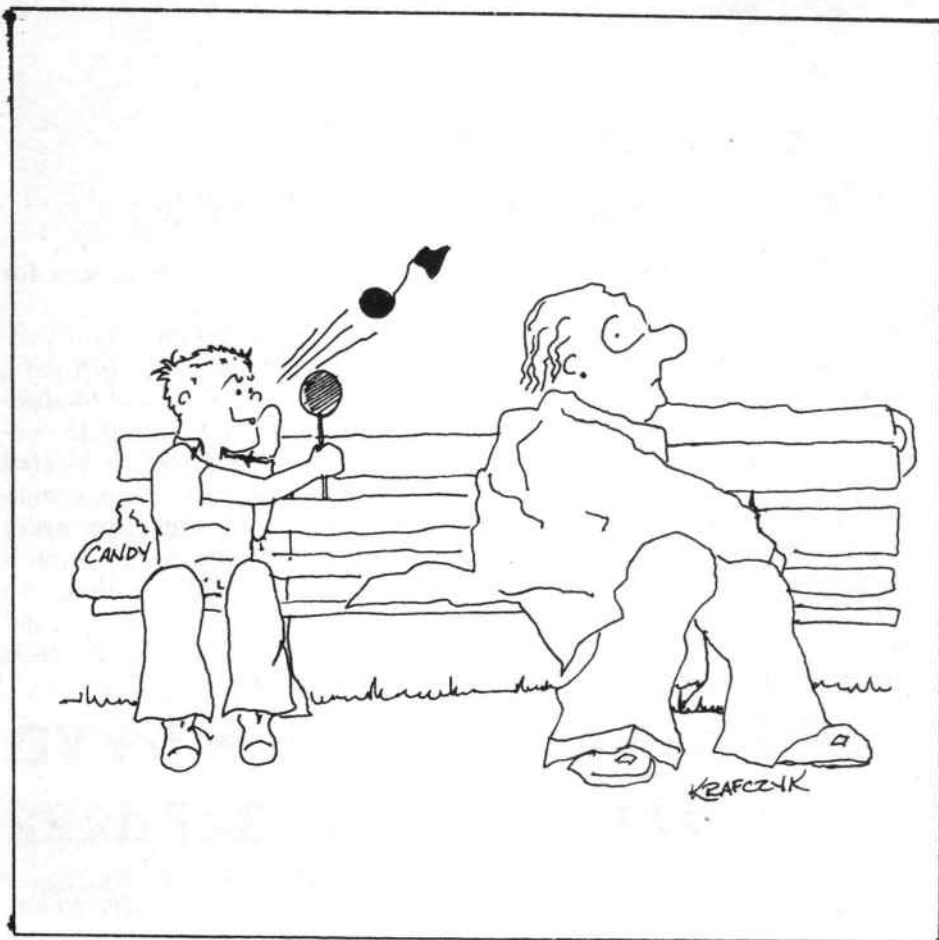
Boston - Ms. Arlie Scott has been appointed to the staff of the new Office of Gay Concerns of the Unitarian-Universalist Association. The Office is the first exclusively gay-oriented agency within any American denomination and will educate the church membership about gays, provide direct service to gay members and spark research about the status of gays within the denomination. A man will also be appointed to the Office.

-*Contact*

Grinnell, Iowa- *Mother Earth News*, a bi-monthly major publication in the country-living field, refused to run a listing informing their readers about RFD, a rural-oriented quarterly published by gay men here. The magazine said they would not run listings for gays because "many of our readers are not young, hip, open-minded folks, but are little old ladies in tennis shoes." RFD responded with an article attacking *Mother Earth News* as playing up to "straight people who see the return to the land as a return to oppressive, traditional American values." *Mother Earth News* countered with a form-letter reply that the magazine does not discriminate against gays.

-*Advocate*

San Francisco - Lavender University, the nation's first school for gays, has opened its doors. According to one of the school's organizers, Jill Grebin, "It's a way to meet people around a specific interest you have in 'common.'" The school offers classes in Greek literature, photography, opera appreciation, dance, jewelry making, and others. Many of the instructors are professors or graduate students from nearby universities. Lavender U. offers no degree and has no campus.



RECORDS

(from page 19)

includes not only his problems but his sexuality. "And I don't want to go down on my knees and elbows/ And not have you do the same, the same." The album works well and wears well; and, despite the anguish and painful honesty of most of it, the listener does become privy to these personal reflections. The experience is enriching and musically satisfying in every way.

This is Me . . . Mickey, by Mickey. Orchestra arranged and conducted by Fred Mergy. Mickey V42113. \$5.95. (Order from Mickey Enterprises, P.O. Box 156, Torrance, California 90507.)

Performance: pure satin, but too much spoken commentary.

Recording: top-notch.

The first cut on this album is perhaps most successful: "Did he need a stronger hand?/Did he need a lighter touch?/Was I soft or was I tough?/Did I give enough?/Did I give too much?/At the moment that he needed me, did I ever turn away?/Would I be there when he called/If he walked into my life today?" "Something" (A, last cut) is a George Harrison song which also works reasonably well, as does "One Less Bell to Answer" (Burt Bacharach-Dal David: B, cut 3). The orchestral accompaniments are lush throughout, but the audio engineers have possibly taken too seriously their function as accompaniment: orchestral miking is always distant, and the mikes appear to be right on top of the singer. This works for a double disadvantage, since Mickey (last name not given) has a dramatic and stylized voice in the midrange, but he comes out a trifle squeaky (sometimes even flat) at the top end of the range. The selection of songs also lacks any attention to lyrical or rhythmic variability, and a second or third listening leaves the listener with a "too-much-of-a-good-thing" feeling.

All things considered, however, the effort is a worthwhile one. The greatest irritation is that of the spoken commentary, dripping with melancholy, which precedes most of the numbers. **Suggestion** If you have a functional tape-deck in your system, tape the record through your amplifier, making the following changes: 1) Dub out the commentary (thus improving the songs), 2) Try to raise the bass (if your system can monitor your efforts), and 3) Try to magnify separation (ditto). The results will be eminently worth the trouble; but, even without any attempt at re-engineering, the record makes for pleasant, if not continual, listening.

God Save the Queens, by Sandy Baron. A and M Records. \$5.98.

Performance: comedy, not bad.

Recording: o.k.

This record doesn't seem to have made much of a hit with gay audiences, though its omnipresence in record shops indicates that someone is buying it. Comedy albums seem to have become a standard if not large part of many record collections; and, if the reader's collection is one of these, he or she will surely want this album among the many standard nongay offerings.

Les Natali Presents Charles Pierce. Recorded live at Bimbo's in San Francisco. Blue Thumb BTS-30. (Ordering information from Blue Thumb Records, Inc., Subsidiary of Famous Music Corp., 427 North Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210.)

Performance: classically camp, good theatre.

Recording: good.

Charles Pierce has appeared many times in San Francisco, al-

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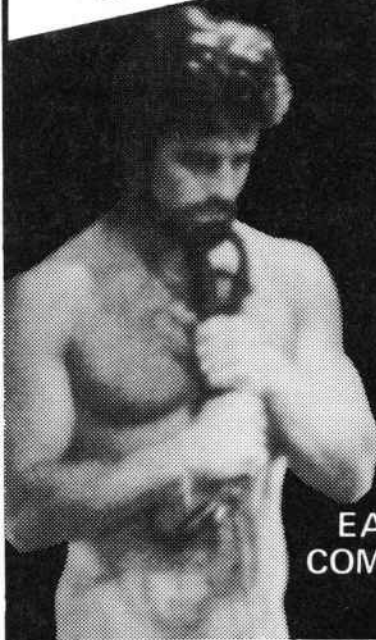
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ways to sell-out crowds, who are never disappointed by the performance or the outrageous costuming. Pierce does all of the favorites - Bette Davis, Mae West, Talulah Bankhead, Joan Crawford, Katherine Hepburn - and does them with an unexcelled vigor and virtuosity: even the topical lines seem to display a sort of timeless humor, and wear well with repeated hearings (as comedy albums so seldom do). The dates of this live performance are not recorded on the album, nor was the price indicated. The audience laughter, which only on rare occasions drowns out the performer, is spontaneous but not excessive, thus adding a note of authenticity and vitality to a well conceived performance.

RECORDING OF SPECIAL MERIT

To Be A Man, by Paul Wagner. Bass and percussion, Warren Schatz; Cello, Julie Tanner; Background vocals, Paul, Warren, and Ellie Hawkins. Trilogy Records TR 4. \$5.98. (Trilogy Records, W.P.N. Music Company, 723 Seventh Avenue, New York City, N.Y. 10019.) (May be ordered from Oscar Wilde Bookstore.)

Performance: first-rate and endearing, fine guitar, full-range voice.
Recording: luscious.

Paul Wagner provides gentle and romantic love songs, and each is a memorable experience in its own right. The production, engineering, and instrumental and vocal accompaniments (Wagner himself is at the guitar throughout) are both careful and competent. They do not intrude, but they do support admirably the lyrics and guitar (both written by Wagner). A particularly good example of this balance is "And Now" (A, band 4), which juxtaposes cello, guitar, and voice into a sensitive harmonic whole.

The title song (A, first band), dedicated to Wagner's father, is delightful music and thoughtful text.

"Well, I'm all alone, feeling very still/Something says I won't, but I know I will/They all say I can't, but I know I can/And, my friend, that's what it means to be a man. No, it doesn't mean that you're tough and strong/Or that you can sing a louder or a better song/No, it just means you do everything you can/And, my friend, that's what it means to be a man." No great claims are made here or elsewhere, and the gay themes are never forced but always present, if sometimes just below the surface of Wagner's poetry. There are no apologies, no recriminations, no social commentaries: the personal messages come across simply perhaps because they don't try, and the results are uniformly appealing.

The remainder of the album is dedicated to Mark Robinson, Wagner's lover. "I Don't Know" (A, band 5) is typical of Wagner's pen-

chant for blending gay with nongay themes, the personal with the social. "Tonight I sat and talked with you/And what'd I do, I opened up my soul/Why? I don't know. Maybe it's just like a chain, come back again/You'll find yourself enclosed/I don't know. But heaven help the one who does it wrong/Who doesn't sing the song but takes the song/Who doesn't fight the war but makes the war/Who says he knows just so much more."

"The One" (B, band 1) is explicit in its gayness, supported by a firm rhythmic pattern and an insistent melodic line. "I came here tonight to tell you/That my lying days are through/I ain't gonna stand in the bar and pretend/That I don't give a damn what you do/No, I'll make no secret about it/I'll tell the morning sun/I'm looking for a lover, and you could be the one."



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An almost perfect combination of unobtrusive sensuality and balanced musical line is also to be found in "As a Friend" (B, band 3). "It always seems it only goes one way/I realized the truth again today/First there's a moment's glory/And then the same old story/I can't bear to hear, those lonely words again/I love you as my life, you love me as a friend." It's closing and poignant stanza: "You say you love me, and I know it's true/And I must say, I've had good times with you/But when you want a lover, you go and find another/Somewhere there must be, someone who needs me/Come on, can't you see, I need more than a friend."

Picking my own favorites here is almost a fruitless task, for almost all of the selections are timeless and beautiful. That they all wear well after countless repeated playings I can personally attest (my own is just about worn out). Many of Wagner's melodies and lyrics would be impressive entries on other albums by other artists, but here they have found a fitting home: Wagner's voice is deep and rich without excessive stylization, and (unusual in the folk idiom), he has an audible range much exceeding a minor third. The level of taste on this album is as high as you will find anywhere in today's music in my opinion, and all of these talents are brought to bear without making a federal case out of it: perhaps its unassuming and natural qualities are what make it such an ultimately attractive effort. Diction may also explain some part of the appeal to the present reviewer. It is something of a rarity to come across a New Yorker who speaks the language, or at least who pronounces it so that others can share it with him. Not a word is lost here, no minced vowels nor rolling consonants. Everything - the music, the message, the idiom - is clean and accessible. Would it be too much to hope that the present album will not be Wagner's last?



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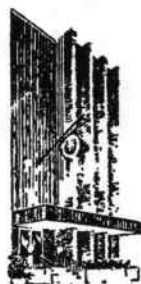
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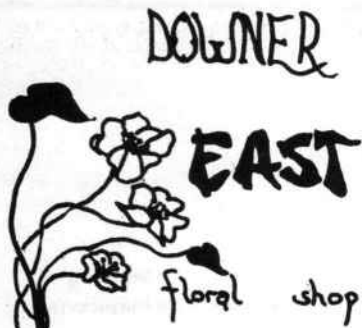
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NIGHT PORTER

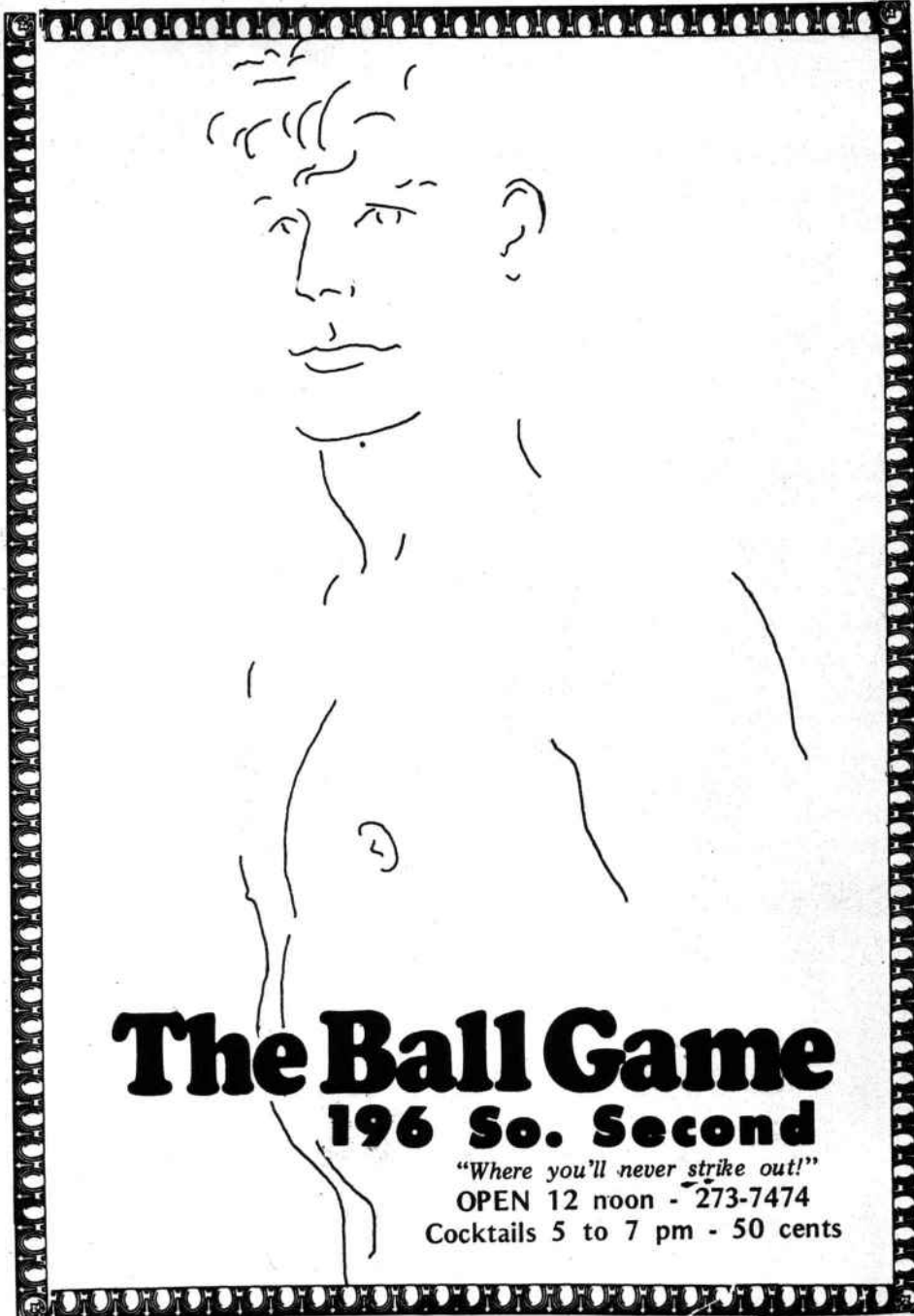
(from page 15)

former comrades, who promptly lay siege to the apartment in which the couple have now barricaded themselves.

Weeks pass—weeks of abandoned sado/masochistic sex, in which at times Lucia turns the tables and acts out her sadistic desires also. Food has run out and Max's "friends" have cut off the water and electricity. The apartment becomes their own concentration camp for the couple. Half-starved, terrified and dazed, they accept the hopelessness of their situation and the inevitability of death. They leave the building, he dressed in his old SS uniform and she as the teenager and are shot by the SS group.

The reviews of this film have been strangely mixed, perhaps because some of the sadistic sex scenes are frankly violent. One scene involves broken glass and another (if you see an uncut version) foot fetishism. However, the validity of such frenzied passion is never in doubt, even though one reviewer missed the whole point and called the film "trashy and unerotic."

Sadism and violence have filled our films since the days of the silent film, but the sexual connotations have only been hinted at best. It is high time that the erotic meanings of these actions be examined frankly. (For an interesting book on the subject, see *Sadism in the Movies* by George DeCoulteray, Castle Books, Inc., New York, 1965.) Sadism, particularly as seen in the movies, has come to mean torture, brutality and depictions of the neurotic, when in reality the term was originally a sexual one. As Robert Benayoun said, "Between Sade and unnecessary cruelty, between Sade and brute violence, between Donatien-Alphonse-Francois and pathological excesses, there is a gulf as vast as that between the scattered stars of the heavens."



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MALE LIB*(from page 25)*

into the upward-spiral "personal growth" thing after all with a few lucky comrades and then become spoiled, increasingly disenchanted with (tho not condemning) the "mostpeople" who aren't into this. And as gays we've had fewer chances for this enriching of personal-social growth. Straights at least could try fumblingly to grow right out in the open since high school days; and even they (being human) have had enough problems there, what with the Super-stud and Pussycat role-codes, etc. By contrast, it's as Louie Crew said, "there is very little gay community, almost no gay family." But we're the stronger (not necessarily caloused) for being Survivors, for what we've been through--alien exiles in our own native land--and we've just begun to "un-man" ourselves toward growing up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**GAY PEOPLES UNION, INC.**

Until further notice, Gay Peoples Union, Inc., will hold their meetings at the GPU VD Examination Center, 225 E. St. Paul, at 7:30 p.m.
Topics for Upcoming Meetings

First Monday--regular business meeting. All other Mondays during April will be a continuation of work toward a Community Center.

One of Chicago's 11th annual banquet--Como Inn, April 12. Speaker--Dr. Joseph Norton, Professor of Counseling, State Univ. of N.Y. at Albany. \$9 donation includes dinner and dancing. Write P.O. Box 537, Chicago, Illinois 60690.

Ball State Gay Activists Union announces their first gay dance. Saturday, April 12, 9 p.m. Ball State University Arts Building Recital Hall. For overnight accommodations, write B.S.G.A.U., Box 393 Student Center, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 43706.

Gay Liberation Front, Student Activities Center, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Ia. announces a Midwest Gay Pride Conference April 11, 12, 13. Speakers: Rita Mae Brown, author, and Tommi of the Radical Queens. Various workshops.

The Tribe, Detroit's Leather & Levi Club, announce their annual "Do a Fool" weekend, April 18, 19, 20. For info write Tribe, Box 204, Detroit, Michigan 48231.

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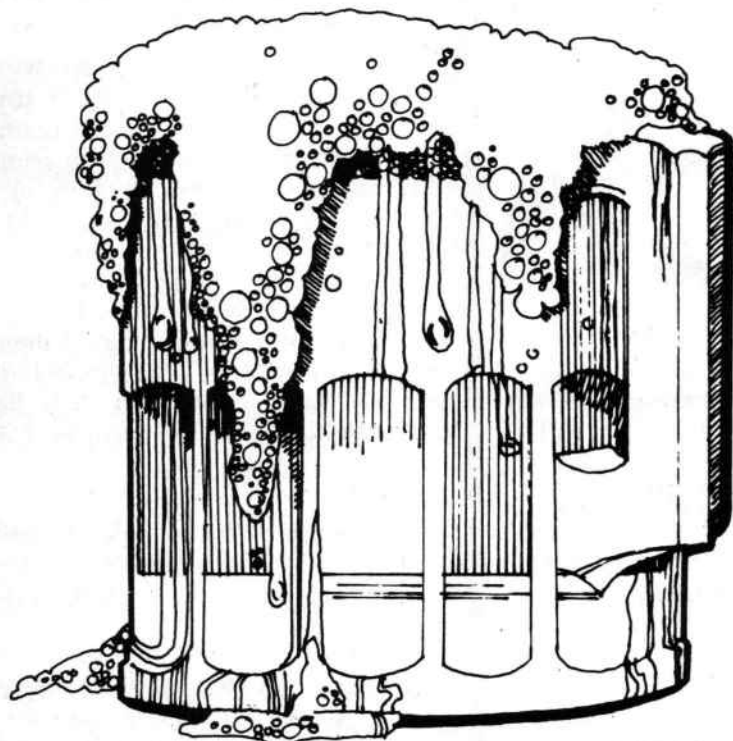
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POEMS by ED COX

POEM FOR HART CRANE

I.

All night the river draws tight.
 The Bridge looms wide,
 green steel,
 Brackish,
 the cords drawn to ice,
 Breath inching,
 pushing out at all sides.

II.

This would be a place
 Where you would walk, dark,
 No cadence,
 No climbing rush to trains,
 In a cord of place
 That brings towns, early hours,
 Strolls home,
 Those quick cruises to the docks.

All here, the green rising,
 Stretched out over the Hudson.
 Bridge, you.
 Light off the Coast of Mexico:
 Lost cord, Phrase
 And you a poem, Always.

III.

What is to be learned from you?:
 The twenties. Names of presidents
 I don't care to remember, recall,
 Out of text their prohibitions
 Driving you to riskier bars
 Where men
 if an eye flash
 Stood out cords on a Bridge a gap.

That Bridge as wide in your room
 As your words trafficking back and forth:
 Train, Bridge, your name ---
 the constant
 traveller---
 The lone walk: Bar, Bridge, and Ships:

You: engulfed,
 Afraid as all of us.



WINDOWS

rain wake to
 breathing of a friend, Bobbie,
 his head brown hair
 and sitting up to see his neck
 wanting him to move,
 pull back covers
 his legs,
 cock I wanted to touch
 even while he would sleep
 & me shaking
 erect, moon, leaf, smell of his body
 wanting him to stir
 slow
 afraid as me to touch
 be together in dark
 through walls
 door shutting two flights up

Ed Cox, 28, was born and raised in Washington D.C. After 8 years of Catholic grade and high school and 2 years as an apprentice printer, he served almost 4 years in the U.S. Navy. He became involved in the GI Anti-War Movement with the Baltimore Peace Committee and then returned to Washington D.C. working at the DMZ, a GI coffeehouse before becoming a counselor at Washington Free Clinic. He is now employed as a secretary for National Endowment for the Arts and is involved with Washington's Gay Blade community newspaper and community center task force which hopes to set up a gay community center. His poetry has appeared in several gay journals, but these poems mark his debut in GPU NEWS.



Photo by Tom Shelton